Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE. MECHANIC ARTS. LITERATURE. NEWS, &c.

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The Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man.

Agricultural Exhibitions.—1870.

New England, at Manchester, N. H., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.

Maine State Fair, at Augusta, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d. Exhibitions of Neat Stock, Horses, Sheep, Swine, Poultry and Agricultural Implements on the Grounds of the Kennebec Agricultural Park; and of Horticultural Floral, Manufactures and Domestic Products in the State House.

All entries to the exhibition may be made Free.

County Exhibitions.

Kennebec, at Readfield Corner, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5th and 6th. Address by Emery O. Bean, President of the Society

East Kennebec, at South China, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 27th, 28th and 29th.

Androscoggin, at Lewiston, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5th and 6th.

Somerset Central, at Skowhegan, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 27th, 28th and 29th.

East Somerset, at Hartland, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 13th and 14th.

West Somerset, at North Anson, Tuesday and Wednesday October 11th and 12th.

North Franklin, at Phillips, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 12th and 13th.

Oxford, at South Paris, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 4th, 5th, and 6th.

Waldo, at Belfast, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct 4th, 5th and 6th.

Aroostook, at Houlton, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 6th and 7th.

West Penobscot, at Exeter, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 27th, 28th and 29th.

Penobscot, at Bangor, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 13th, 14th and 15th. Address by Hon. J. L. Chamberlain.

North Waldo, at Unity, Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 4th and 5th

Sagadahoc at Topsham, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 11th, 12th and 13th.

Town Exhibitions.

Union, (Waldo and Penobscot), at Monroe, Wednesday and and Thursday, Sept. 28th and 29th.

Wilton, Wednesday, Sept. 28th.

The New Stock Yard at Watertown.

It will doubtless interest many of our readers, especially those engaged in the purchase and transporting of live stock to the great markets around Boston, to know that the stock pens at Cambridge—or rather the headquarters of the drovers and butchers—are soon to be removed from that place to Watertown. The chief reason for this is, we understand, that the lease of the grounds at Cambridge, occupied by the stock yards, is soon to expire, and as the present Stock Yard Association have failed to obtain another lease, accommodations must be looked for elsewhere. The new grounds at Watertown are owned by the Fitchburg Railroad Company, and a force of perhaps a hundred and fifty workmen are now employed in grading the same, and in erecting the necessary buildings and other accommodations. The land owned by the company for this purpose, comprises something like thirty-five or forty acres, and as the main track of the company runs along one side of the grounds, with a side track extending close to the large covered pens now built, the location seems very well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended.

The fixtures upon this new stock yard—judging from those completed at the time of our visit, and from what we could learn of the Company's plans—are to be very superior to those at either Brighton, Cambridge or Medford. Among the buildings very nearly completed were a hog-pen, 160 by 60 feet, and two sheep pens, each 210 by 80 feet, all well built, with tight roofs and floors, battened sides, well lighted and well ventilated, and painted upon their outsides. In addition a building intended as an office and scale room, with a rear extension built of brick to serve as an engine room, was also in course of erection. The engine is to be used for the purpose of supplying the grounds with water, every pen upon which is to receive a constant supply. Forty cattle pens—all of them to be covered—also comprise a part of the equipments of this new yard. Mention should also be made of the hotel, built in L form, 80 feet front on two sides, four stories high, the foundation and frame work of which were completed.

We have never visited the Cambridge market yard, and cannot therefore speak of its accommodations, but we are sure every one who has any regard for the comfort and health of animals that are to become immediate food for man, will rejoice that the Watertown yard is to furnish so much better quarters for cattle, sheep and swine than is now afforded at the famous Brighton yards. At the latter place the yards are crowded into the centre of the village, surrounded by churches, stores, hotels and dwellings; and besides this, no protection from the elements, to which in all seasons they are subjected; is afforded the poor animals confined there, often, even in the severe weather of fall and winter for days and nights together—except an open board fence! The sheep and shoats are to have a dry floor to stand upon, with a good roof overhead, and the cattle-yards covered alike from the heat of the midsummer sun and the cold snow and winds of winter—are certainly the best arguments that can be urged for a change in the location of the live stock headquarters. The near proximity of the new yard at Watertown to the Brighton yard—about ten minutes ride—is another good reason for making the change. We imagine the time is not far in the future when the old yards at Brighton will be abandoned, and the live stock markets concentrated at some point where the advantages of the new Watertown yard will be secured. Perhaps, however, the yard at Watertown is being arranged in possible view of such an event. It is expected to be ready for occupancy by October

Marketing Farm Produce.

Perhaps a word or two upon this subject, may profitably follow the general remarks upon the same topic contained in our article of last week, concerning skill in the preparation of land, production of crops and marketing of products.

The exercise of skill or knowledge in the marketing of farm products is sure to bring its rewards, and the farmer who succeeds in obtaining the highest price, is generally he who understands preparing his articles in such a way that buyers will not only look at them, but feel compelled to purchase.

Farm products of all kinds should be prepared for the market in a neat and attractive manner. There is no time lost in picking over beans, sorting apples and potatoes, or putting up butter in a neat and taking way. The market gardeners who supply our large cities with vegetables, understand this business of marketing better than most people. Their beets, turnips, lettuce, &c., must all be washed, and the tomatoes must be clean and carefully assorted. It don't pay, in the long run, to mix inferior fruit with good, to put rocks in your oats, or barrow teeth in wool, when preparing these articles for the consumer.

The farmer whose products always command the highest price, who seldom stands at the street corners or in "the market place" waiting for customers, who is never at a loss to sell—is the man who always brings to market a good article, in an attractive condition, which will bear inspection and be found as recommended.

Ladies, Contribute to the Fair.

We make a special appeal to the women of the State, and more especially the women of the Kennebec valley and Kennebec county, to contribute articles of their handiwork to the State Fair to be held in this city this month. The premium list embraces prizes for those useful and ornamental articles which only fair hands can devise, and it should also be remembered that if the particular article you desire to bring to the Fair is not specified in the List, this should be no discouragement, as other premiums or gratuities than those offered will be awarded by the committee. That department of a Fair comprising articles of household manufacture, not only the cloth, and carpeting, and socks and rugs, but the finer embroidery and needlework, fancy articles, counterpanes &c., has a special interest for all lady spectators, and as a large part of those who visit the State Fairs are women, some thing must be provided for their special entertainment. Therefore women of Maine, of Kennebec County, get ready the articles that will add to the interest of the Fair, and when you come, bring them along, and place them on exhibition. All articles for either department of the Show and Fair are entered *free*, and we hope this invitation will receive a united and ready response from those to whom it is particularly addressed. Let the girls and the young women also exhibit specimens of their skill in sewing, knitting, mending, and in fancy or ornamental work of whatever description. To guide you somewhat in deciding what to bring, we ennumerate in brief the articles mentioned in the Premium List, viz: Pair woolen blankets, ten yards all woolen flannel, ten yards milled wool cloth, ten yards wool carpeting, ten yards linen cheese strainer, sewing-silk, linen tablecloth, linen diaper, shirts from native linen, woolen yarn, three pounds, woolen yarn knit stockings, worsted knit stockings, knit woolen gloves, woolen mittens, hand-knit cotton stockings, rag carpet, fifteen yards, hearth rug, floor mat, all wool frocking, ten yards, cotton and wool frocking, same quantity, suit of gentleman's clothing, domestic manufacture, fancy and ornamental needlework, counterpane, embroidery.

A Universal Code.

In reading the proof of our last issue, we were impressed by the similarity of thought and expression contained in the articles by our contributors, which appeared in that number. Although upon widely differing subjects, the chief thought, after all, seemed to run in the same direction. Said Mr. Emerson in his article on the West as compared with Maine, "The time has arrived when the old system of half farming it by running over 'more than double the land we ought,' and getting half crops, must be abolished. When our farmers wake up to the above facts, and put them into execution, then Maine may hold out to young men inducements equal with other States." Said Mr. West, in his excellent paper on fall plowing: "If the farmers in this State would expend their resources and labor in cultivating and improving one-half the area they now do, they would in a few years not only increase the quantity, but also increase the quality of their crops." And our new contributor, from whom we hope to hear often, "John Dewberry," used the following language: "We must abandon the practices that have so nearly ruined our once vigorous and productive soil. We must cultivate less in extent and cultivate better, we must make and save more manure, we must keep more stock, and consume all the farm products at home." The truth of the statements contained in these expressions is so self-evident, that we pick them out from their original setting, and place them here, that they may do double duty, and possess, if possible, greater force in awakening our farmers to a realization of the actual condition of our agriculture they illustrate, at the same time suggesting the means to be employed in order to effect an improvement. Together, they comprise a code of procedure for the farmers of Maine, that may be safely followed, upon every variety of soil, and with every kind of crop.

The Drouth—Value of Fodder Corn.

The drouth continues with great severity, although the extreme heat of the past several weeks seems to have given place to the cooler afternoons and nights of late summer. The foliage of the trees is yellow and dead, and the fields and pastures present the appearance of having been ravaged by fire. On many farms cattle, cows and working oxen especially, have been fed for two weeks, and in some instances it is necessary to drive them off the farm to obtain water for them. There is poor prospect for fall feed. The earth is as dry as an ash heap, and rain, even should it come now—we write 26th of August—would scarcely save the late potato crop from almost total failure. A better time, however, to dig muck and put in shape low meadows that are generally wet, has not occurred for years. So every evil has some good. Let the present drouth be taken advantage of in these respects.

Since writing the above we have had a conversation with a farmer of long and close observation, who has the reputation of being one of the best farmers in Kennebec county, and who for years has devoted much of his time to the production of butter for the Augusta market.

"Do you feed your cows," we ask.

"Yes," is the reply; "I have fed them for nearly two weeks, ten days certainly. I give them fodder corn, and feel my working oxen as good hay as I have in the barn."

"What was the effect of feeding fodder corn to your cows," we inquire.

"It increased the flow of milk at once, which for a week kept much above what it had been on pasture feed. Now, getting no feed in the pasture and feeding them almost exclusively on fodder corn (which is this year far less succulent than usual) I find they just about hold their own. Cows that are not fed fodder corn have shrunk fully one-half in the quantity of milk produced."

Isn't this farmer's statement as to the value of fodder corn worth something? And should not the present severe drouth abundantly furnish every farmer to provide a good piece of it for another year? Now is the time to think of such things

A New Herd Started.

As will be seen by looking at the record of stock sales, under the head of "Agricultural Intelligence" in our present number, Mr. M. N. Cowan of Sidney, has just laid the foundation for a choice herd of thoroughbred Short Horn stock, for his own service. The purchase consists of five animals, of ages very well suited to his wants, and under his careful care and breeding we have no doubt they will make a good record for themselves. Mr. Cowan's farm borders that beautiful sheet of water known as "Snow Pond," and although somewhat rough and rocky by nature it has been wonderfully polished and smoothed off by the labor of Mr. Cowan and his boys, so that now it is indeed well worth looking at. Not the least of the interesting things about the farm is an orchard of six hundred apple trees all set within the past twenty-one years—surpassed in beauty and healthfulness by few orchards in the county.

Editorial Notes.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the communication which appears in our present issue, in relation to contributions of specimens illustrating the natural history of our State for the cabinet of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Orono. It takes a young institution, like the one just mentioned, a long time to acquire the equipments necessary to illustrate the various branches of natural science taught therein, unless, as is not always the case, the institution is well endowed, and has plenty of wealthy friends. But this disadvantage can be overcome to a great extent if those interested in the college, and earnest for its success, will together unite in small contributions of the kind needed. If every young farmer and mechanic in the State were to give a single specimen, a noble collection would be the result. Shall not an effort in the direction suggested by the appeal, be at once made in behalf of this People's College?

It is not yet too late to provide moth traps for the gardens, although the results would have been far better had they been in operation during the last two weeks. Thoughtful gardeners everywhere, we venture, need not to be reminded of their utility. Open-mouthed bottles, half filled with sweetened water, and suspended from fruit trees, answer a good purpose. Another plan is that recommended by Mr. George W. Jones, the well-known auctioneer of this city. He fills a milk-pan about half full of sweetened vinegar, and sets it upon the ground in his garden. This catches an immense number of moths of all sorts and sizes. In two weeks this season, he obtained, from actual count, fourteen hundred and twenty, catching in one night two hundred and three. This is an easy and sure way of securing good fruit and healthy fruit trees. Why don't more employ the same means?

The consumption of wool in the United States is enormous. An exchange states, we do not know upon what authority, that railway sleepers alone require 150,000 acres of the best timber every year. Just think of it? The annual expenditure for railway buildings, repairs and cars is about $40,000,000. Then the locomotives in the United States are estimated to consume $56,000,000 worth of wood fuel annually, and this estimate is probably very nearly correct. In view of such statements—leaving entirely out of our present calculations the consumption of wool for building purposes, fences, bridges and fuel—would the farmer be wasting his time if some of it was spent in planting tree seeds or in protecting the young growth of wood upon his rough hillsides?

We hope no farmer who has sufficient interest in our agriculture to visit the approaching State Fair, will fail to attend the evening discussions that are to take place in the Court House. The subjects that are to be talked about are important ones to every farmer, and the gentlemen appointed to "break the ice" in the discussions, are men thoroughly acquainted with their subjects. Few matters are of more interest than that assigned to Mr. Thompson, of Jay, who has long been known as one of the most prominent dairymen in a section of the State where dairy products, especially cheese, have ranked among the best produced in Maine. Mr. Pulsiver, of Poland, is as well versed in apple culture as Mr. Thompson is in cheese and butter making, and from the report he will then give us of his fine orchard, one of the best in the State, and his manner of managing it, fruit growers will no doubt find much to think about. Although he writes he is "a working-man, and not a speech-maker," yet such men are generally better at talking than they are apt to think; and we have heard Mr. Pulsifer talk fruit before Of the other topic, "Shall our Highways be Fenced?" we have only to say it will be discussed in an able learned and practical way, by Hon. A. G. Lebroke. Upon each of these subjects all farmers should come prepared to say a word or two, and there will be time given for that word or two from each one present.

A Good Receipt for Pickles.

The following is a little late to be of benefit to our readers this year, but as good receipts are never out of season we give below a receipt for making cucumber pickles. It comes from a pickle grower of long experience, one who grows cucumbers by the acre and whose products in this particular always command the highest prices in the Boston market. It was communicated in a private letter for our own use, but we are not willing to keep it away from our readers—and we feel sure the gentleman sending it will also take this view of the matter. It is as follows: "Pick the cucumbers from the vines, being very careful not to bruise them. Leave a small piece of the stem upon the cucumber when it is picked; a pair of strong scissors being the best implement with which to detach them from the vines. Then put them in a strong pickle or brine made of Turk's Island salt. Have the brine strong enough to bear up a good sized potato. After putting the cucumbers in the brine put on a cover and weight sufficient to keep them under the pickle, but not heavy enough to press or jam them. You will have to add a little more salt after a few days. Have a spile near the bottom of the cask so you can draw off the brine without disturbing the cucumbers. When a scum appears on the brine draw it off and turn it back, as the strength of the brine settles to the bottom. After the cucumbers have been in the brine ten days, you may take them out, put them in a kettle with pure cold water, heat up as hot as you can hold your hands in comfortably—then take them out of the kettle put them in cold water and let them soak until the salt is nearly out. It will be necessary to change the water about twice before they are freshened enough. Then take them out and put them into vinegar. If you do not want to use or sell them immediately, they may remain in the brine until you do wish to use them."

The State Fair—Entries Made Free.

An impression seems to have been obtained that in order to enter animals or articles at the coming State Fair, the payment of an entry fee in advance is required. This is not the case, as the State Agricultural Society have never required an entrance fee to be made, except upon the independent trials of speed for horses. At their Fair last year, the New England Society required an entrance fee in every individual instance, and from this many have obtained the idea that it is one of our State Society's rules. As will be seen from the rules and regulations of the Society, which we publish in full in this impression, all entries to the exhibition, in whatever department, are free, and exhibitors receive tickets of admission. So, farmers, mechanics, everybody, bring along the products of your industry and help make up a grand Show and Fair.

Shrinkage of Live Stock.

In the report of Mr. Alexander Bruce, chief inspector of live stock for the colony of New South Wales—as given in the London *Country Gentleman's Magazine* for July—it is stated that a fat bullock, driven to market over ordinary level roads, rested nights, and well fed three times a day, looses eight pounds per day, where the journey extends over a number of days. Stall fed cattle will of course shrink much more.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

An Appeal:

In Behalf of the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

We wish to call the attention of all the young men of Maine to the subject of advancing the cause of science and the interests of this Institution by contributing to its cabinet, specimens in the various departments of Natural History. The formation of local museums is quite a difficult task, without a sufficient amount of money to purchase the objects desired and it can be accomplished but slowly without the aid of liberal and frequent donations.

We know that there are many who, desirous of promoting the cause of science, will gladly aid us when they more clearly understand what is wanted, and see that something is really going to be done.

Objects like the following will be most acceptable, either as gifts or in exchange for something which we shall have after a short time: Pressed plants, seeds and seed-vessels, especially samples of the different kinds of grain and garden seeds; wood and bark; mosses, lichens and fungi; shells—marine, land and fresh water; insects, snakes and lizards; birds, their nests and eggs; fossils and petrifactions; minerals, and marls.

In order that those who are unfamiliar with collecting, and desire to aid us in our labors, we will send them upon application a pamphlet issued by the Smithsonian Institute, on Collecting, Preserving and Transporting objects in Natural History; also the circular in reference to collecting the nests and eggs of North American birds

We earnestly solicit donations, however small, as long as the specimens are good, or possess any peculiar interest. All objects received will have proper care and be placed on exhibition. The names of the donors will be recorded in a book with the specimens donated, and published in the Reports of the College.

If any one finding plants, minerals, shells, &c., and desiring to learn something of their Natural History, will send the specimen to us, or a description of it, all the information which we can furnish will be most gladly given, either by direct correspondence or through the columns of the Farmer.

One can hardly fail to see the advantages to be derived from a fine collection of specimens illustrating the various departments of Natural History in a college like this.

During the present season one of the students has been devoting a portion of each day to collecting plants, etc., in the immediate vicinity of the College. By the close of the season he will have about two thousand specimens of dried plants, many of course being duplicates, to be used in exchanges Already we have received by exchange from a gentleman in Chicago, two hundred very fine specimens of plants. Other exchanges are under consideration. A very beautiful and valuable collection of *Algæ*; seaweeds, have been purchased of Dr. N. S. Harlow of Bangor; The collection formerly belonged to Mr. A. Young, Jr., a graduate of Bowdoin College. Many rare and beautiful plants have been found in the neighborhood of the College. Among them may be mentioned the following: Cleamatis verticilliaris, Urethusa bulboso, Calypso borealis, Liparis loeselii, Cypripedium spectabile, Trillium cernuum, Batrychium simplex, Ophioglossum vulgatum, and Lycopodium inundatum.

We again invite the citizens of Maine—friends of education—to give us their zealous cooperation in this work.

F. L. S.

Orono.

For the Maine Farmer.

Norway Oats--- White vs. Black.

It is very fashionable now a days to inform the printer what we are doing and how we get along in the farming line, and if we have done anything wonderful to tell of it, and if we have produced anything new or wonderful to let it be known. Now I wish to inform you that I have raised from twenty-nine quarts of *white* Norway oats thirty bushels of the nicest oats I ever saw, and to convince you that they are nice I send you this day by mail one quart of the same. They weigh thirty-eight pounds to the bushel.

I purchased the seed last spring from N. P. Boyer & Co., Pennsylvania, for which I paid, including express bill, twelve dollars. I do not know as there are any raised in this State. I have never seen any or heard of any. They are entirely a different oat from Ramsdell & Co's black oat, being plump and short, more the form of barley, and with thin hull. Had the season been favorable for the ground I sowed them on, I am of the opinion that I should have raised about fifty bushels. I see from some accounts in the West that they have produced from seventy-five to one hundred bushels from one bushel of seed.

There has been so much said about the black Norway oats, and their failure to come up to the standard that I feel most ashamed to say anything about the white, but they looked so nice that I thought I would send you a sample. I do not do this for an advertisement for I intend to sow another year the most that I have raised. I intend to have some on exhibition at the State Fair at Augusta, and challenge the State to beat them.

The drouth with us is very sharp. Potatoes must be very small and but few in the hill. Corn also is very light, some pieces being a total failure. It is an anxious time with farmers to know what to do with their stock. Pastures as well as fields are entirely drying up, and in many locations water has failed so that some have to drive off their farms to water their stock.

Now is the time for farmers to decide whether corn fodder is of any value or not. I find it of very good value to my milch cows, and I am of the opinion that every farmer must come to the same conclusion, Dr. Loring to the contrary notwithstanding.

No. Vassalboro'. H. G. Abbott.

Note. The package of oats came duly to hand with the above. They are certainly very handsome, the kernel being plump and heavy. We hope friend Abbott will make a good exhibition of them at the State Fair, and feel sure he is safe in making the above challenge.

For the Maine Farmer.

Bees in September.

This is a month of comparative leisure with bees. There is but little done now more than perhaps to change about their stores to some extent in the hives so that it may be most convenient in winter. Bees in all well managed apiaries will be peacefully enjoying their well earned treasures, and the quiet movements, and the gentle humming about the doors of their houses, speak only of content and happiness.

Bees require but little attention now more than to guard against robbing, and but few operations should be performed upon them, the less the better at this season. Such jobs as transferring from common to movable comb hives should not be done now under any circumstances, my experience would not warrant transferring bees thus, later than the first of July. If bees are to enjoy the fumes of brimestone it is time now, but the man who suffocates his bees in the fall for their honey will sooner or later be troubled with bad luck, depend upon it, while he who is willing for them to share the fruit of their labor with him, that is who uses a desirable hive understandingly will succeed and his bees will grow more and more prosperous each year as his stock of knowledge of their habits and requirements increases.

We must learn to profit by the experience of others in this as well as in other branches of business, and the careful reading of good practical books on the subject cannot fail to be both interesting and instructive and well worth the necessary expenditure to procure them. I would especially suggest that beekeepers look into this matter of hives more, and before another season comes, provide themselves with something better than the old fashioned box hive. A good working moveable comb hive is very desirable and quite important to people who would keep up with the times in beekeeping, and these hives cannot be objected to by any one aside from the needless expense of the frames if they are not to be worked.

Plymouth. G. W. P. Jerrard

For the Maine Farmer.

An Inquiry.

I have a cow that has been troubled with the disease known as the horn ail, each spring after she drops her calf, but recovers by proper treatment, and I wish to ask you or some of your correspondents, through the medium of the Farmer, what they know about the disease. Will she escape the annual visitation if I should keep her farrow the next winter? If you or any of your correspondents have had experience in such cases will they communicate the same and oblige me and perhaps others. H. C.

For the Maine Farmer.

A Country Epistle.

While driving through the town of Dixmont recently, to visit a couple of friends, I was very agreeably surprised at the face of the country, although my view of it was only a cursory one. I expected to find the town rough and hilly, as I did; and rocky and cheerless, as I did not. It seemed as if I must be in the central part of New Hampshire. To one who has always been familiar with mountain scenery the hills would probably not appear at all grand, but when one just from more level regions had reached the top of a long ascent, the view was almost majestic, certainly inspiriting. The hills were standing close together, foot to foot, as far as the eye could reach, not with bare rocky tops, of service to the geologist alone—they belonged to farmers, every rod of them;—their sides were cultivated high up, and their summits were heavily wooded. In one or two places fields looked as if cut into the woods on the hillside by the aid of a square. Slopes and valleys hugged the farm-houses which seemed to have been dropped into their bosoms, while the different colors, the dark-green potatoes, the gleaming corn, the yellow grain, the russet mowed fields and the woodlands, with the shadows skimming over all, left but a single thing wanting to make up a perfect gem of a landscape:—from the road which I took not a pond, however small, was to be seen in the town, and no streams, except two small brooks. The eye thirsted for the gleam of a little lake, or for a silvery streamlet winding through some of those valleys. At one point, I could not help admiring the composure with which a herd of cattle fed, while balancing themselves, as if on a pole, on the narrow paths around an almost perpendicular steep.

It was gratifying to observe the good workmanship displayed on the most of the farms. Those steep fields that seem to stand on one edge are thoroughly drained without any trouble of the cultivators, and their fruits showed their appreciation of a light dry, soil, and of the manures they had evidently received. A nearly finished drain through a low field reminded me that our farmers of to-day are eagerly entering more enlightened ways in husbandry. Much of the grain had been harvested, but what remained looked stout and rich. The corn and potatoes buried the ground almost as evenly as the grain. The drouth cannot have done so much injury as was feared or, if so, with favorable weather, the crops must have produced beyond every precedent. Certainly, both in field crops and in fruits we are blessed with a "year of plenty."

I was particularly struck by the almost universal use of machinery in farming, now-a-days. Nearly all the grass-land, in sight, had been mowed by machines. Our farmers have begun to learn that continual, severe, labor is almost certainly fatal to long life. It has been the custom to point to the sinewy man, who could handle a hoe or a scythe from early in the morning till late at night, as an example of the wholesomeness of hard work. He is rather an example of the robustness which the free air and sun of the country gives to the human frame, so that he continues strong and healthy, for a long time, in spite of the exhausting labors. It is a fact that the percentage of the farmers who live to an old age is less than men in less laborious occupations. As long life is considered the greatest boon to man—"all that a man hath will he give for his life"—it would be expected that a knowledge of the means of attaining it would be the most earnestly sought after. On the contrary men prefer to risk life and health that he may search out the way to riches. I would make a special plea for a careful study of some common work on physiology, by all to whom the subject is not already familiar. They might then, avoid many common sources of disease, and guide themselves and their families to greater health, happiness and usefulness. E. S. S.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Sales of Stock. Hon Warren Percival of Cross Hill, has recently made the following sales of stock: Avery & Weeks of Jefferson, yearling bull, Morning Star, sired by Gen Smith 5711 out of Red Rose 3d, by John Bull 2d, 4921; to G S. Butman of Plymouth 2 years old heifer Roan Beauty by Gen. Smith 5911 out of Red Rose 2d, by John Bull 2d, 4721; to Nathaniel Percival of Clinton two Bull Calves Royal Duke 3d, and Prince Albert 2d, sired by Gen. Smith out of Madonna 5th; also Dulip 2d by Gen. Smith out of Beauty 2d, by Duke of Manlius 2272, to M. N. Cowan of Sidney, May Flower 5th, by Duke of Barrington 2247; 2 years old heifer, White Rucel out of Nellie by Gen. Smith 5711; Commodore 3d, out of Beauty by Gen. Smith and Dora out of Clota 2d by Young Carlyle 7406

To Nathan Dane, Jr., of Kennebunk, Jersey Heifer Fannie 2d, 2 years old, and her heifer calf Jessie.

The Season. We have finished haying, securing about an average crop of excellent quality. It has been very dry and hot, during the season. We have had a few showers but not enough to wet the bottom of potato hills. Corn is looking well, grain is good, but potatoes look rather poorly. I have often seen in the Farmer accounts of early vegetables, I will say that I planted some peas the 2d of July, and the 8th of August there were peas on them plenty large to cook.

R. M. Boothby.

West Newfield.

Pears on Mountain Ash. Please find enclosed two pears that grew on a mountain ash. The scions were set three years ago; they are the Flemish Beauty. They rot very quickly after getting ripe. I have eaten a number of them and have found no seeds as yet. [The pears came duly to hand with the above. One was in esten, but no seeds were observed.—Ed.]

Stephen Brown.

Gorham.

From Androscoggin County. We have not had rain enough this season, since the first of June to give the ground a thorough wetting. The hay crop was light; some say one half, others say two-thirds of an average crop. But it is of an excellent quality. Corn is looking well. Early sown grain was good; late sown grain suffered from the drouth. Apples are abundant. Feed for stock is short. H. B.

No Livermore.

To Cleanse A Cistern. Will the editor of the Farmer recommend some method of purifying water in a cistern? A pump has recently been set which, however, may have nothing to do with the state of the water. [A writer in a late issue of the *Country Gentleman* recommends putting two pounds of caustic of soda into the cistern for the purpose of cleansing it. In his own case it was entirely successful in purifying the water. All cisterns should receive ample ventilation.—Ed.]

A Subscriber.

For the Maine Farmer.

Original Domestic Receipts.

Baker's Gingerbread. Two cups of molasses, and four tablespoonfuls of butter stirred together without melting; add one cup of flour, two tablespoonfuls of soda dissolved in one cup of sweet milk; one teaspoonful of Alum dissolved in one-half cup of boiling water, and one tablespoonful of ginger. Stir all well together and add flour till thick enough to roll. Cut in cards and bake in a quick oven. Some may suppose the amount of soda too great, but the alum will counteract the soda.

Molasses Cup Cake. Two cups of molasses, two eggs, one cup of butter, one cup of milk, half a nutmeg and flour sufficient to make it as stiff as you can stir with a spoon. Beat well and bake in a quick oven.

Paste Pudding. Make a nice paste crust, roll it rather thin, then spread with sliced apple or any kind of fruit or jelly, then begin on one side and roll it up steam from an hour and a half to two hours. To be eaten with cream sauce.

Apple Dumplings. Take nice tart apples pare and remove the core; and fill the place with sugar. Roll out thin some nice puff paste cut in pieces of sufficient size to roll the apple in, lay them on a buttered tin and bake in a quick oven. Serve with cream sauce.

Mrs. S. C. H

Sidney.

For the Maine Farmer.

To Kill Bark Lice on Apple Trees.

In answer to L. B.'s inquiry, what will kill bark lice on apple trees, I will state what killed them on mine. In the latter part of the month of May, I took soft soap and reduced it one half with strong lye; and with a whitewash brush, applied it to the parts affected by the lice, and it completely destroyed them, leaving the trees smooth and healthy. I don't think that common soapsuds are strong enough to entirely destroy them.

S. D. Greenleaf.

Starks, Aug. 15, 1870.

State Agricultural Society.

General Regulations,

For the State Fair at Augusta, Sept. 20-23.

The gates will be open for the admission of the public from eight o'clock A. M., until sundown of each day.

The Chief Marshal and Superintendents of the various departments, will meet at the President's Head-Quarters at 8 A. M., on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, to perfect arrangements for the day.

Superintendent and Assistants. The General Superintendent will have the general supervision of the grounds, and of the police arrangements of the Fair.

The Assistant Superintendents will have charge of their respective departments under his directions, and be held responsible for their proper arrangement. They will have animals and articles arranged for exhibition at the time required, and will accompany the judges and point out the animals and articles to be examined, and affix the prizes as directed by the judges.

A room connected with the General Superintendent's office upon the grounds will be prepared, where all the attendants and laborers in the employ of the Society must remain when not engaged, so that the Superintendent may avail himself of their services when needed.

The Superintendents of the several departments of the exhibition will take every possible precaution for the safe keeping of stock and articles on exhibition, after their arrival and arrangement on the grounds, but the Society will not be responsible for any damage that may occur. Exhibitors must give personal attention to their animals and articles, and at the close of the Fair, attend to their removal.

The Superintendents will also see that all animals and articles in their respective departments are arranged as near as may be, in their numerical order, to lessen and facilitate the labors of the judges in their examinations.

All persons having any inquiries in relation to the arrangements of the Fair, will make application at the Superintendent's office.

The Judges. The Judges are requested to report themselves at the office of the Secretary, at the entrance of the grounds, where badges will be furnished.

Vacancies will be filled by the Board of Trustees at the President's quarters, on Wednesday, Sept. 21st, at 10 A. M., when the book of entries will be delivered.

No person who is an exhibitor can act as Judge on the class which he exhibits. And during the examination by the judges, if any person interferes with them, by letter or otherwise, he will be excluded from the competition. But exhibitors, when requested, are expected to make verbal or written statements concerning their contributions.

When animals or articles are not deemed worthy of a premium, the Judges will, in all cases, withhold it. An animal or an article entered for exhibition in one class, cannot compete for premium in any other; but cattle in other classes are not prohibited from competing for the Herd Premium, nor horses entered for exhibition from competing for the premiums for speed.

No person other than the Judges, will be permitted to go into the ring where stock is exhibited, except the officers of the Society or Superintendents.

The Judges are desired to pay particular attention to the regulations and arrangements in the list of premiums, and upon the Judges' book.

The Judges shall in all cases withhold premiums where the animal or article is not worthy, though there be no competition.

The books of entries must be filled up with the awards, and returned to the Secretary by Thursday, Sept. 22d, at 9 o'clock, P. M.

Rules for Exhibitors. Notice of the intention to enter live stock should be sent to the Secretary on or before Tuesday, Sept. 6th, 1870, that proper arrangements may be made for their accommodation.

All articles intended to be exhibited upon the grounds or in the Hall, should be entered on or before Monday, September 19th, at 6 o'clock, P. M.

Exhibitors and their assistants will be required to enter at the exhibitor's gate, and the attendants will examine the tickets when presented, and if any person offers a ticket with any other name upon it than his own, the ticket will be retained, and the person reported to the General Superintendent for fraudulently attempting to enter the show grounds.

Exhibitors will be required to place their articles, entered for exhibition, *in the place designated for them*, and no person will be allowed to sell articles on the ground, *to be removed* previous to the close of the exhibition, without permission from the General Superintendent, who is especially enjoined to see that this requirement is enforced. Exhibitors are particularly requested to examine the requirements of the premium list, so as to be prepared for the committees when ready to discharge their duties.

Exhibitors must see to the delivery of their contributions upon the show grounds; and the Society cannot in any case make provision for their transportation, or be subjected to any expense therefor, either in their delivery or return from the grounds; but all expenses connected therewith must be provided for by the exhibitors.

For the convenience of exhibitors, stalls will be provided for the stock; forage, consisting of hay, (and straw for litter,) with water, and grain for swine and poultry, will be supplied without charge; so that animals, on their arrival, may be driven to the show grounds and need not be removed until the exhibition is closed. Grain for stock, will also be on the grounds, and will be furnished to those who desire it at market price.

In Dep't L, (Poultry,) it is expected that every trio will consist of a cock and two hens. The coops of all specimens must be labelled with what the exhibitor believes to be the true name. Exhibitors are expected to furnish their own cages; but no rough or clumsy ones will be admitted. All cages should be made light and tasteful, and as small as convenient.

Authentic pedigrees of blood stock of all kinds will be required, referring to volume and page of Herd Books where the same can be examined. Copies of such pedigrees must be deposited with the Secretary at the time of making the entry, to be referred to the Special Committee on Pedigree.

All articles and animals brought for exhibition, must have cards attached, with the number as entered at the Secretary's office; and exhibitors in all cases shall obtain their cards of the Secretary or entry clerk, previous to placing their articles or animals on the show ground.

There shall also be similar cards attached to the pens containing the animals, and stating the particular breed, so as to be easily read by the spectators. Premiums will not be paid on animals or articles removed from the exhibition without the approval of the Superintendent of the department in which the same has been exhibited, and his ticket returned.

Should any individual enter an animal or article in any other name than that of the *bone fide* owner, the person making such entry shall not be allowed a premium, should one be reported by the Judges, and shall be precluded from competing. No animal will be allowed a premium unless it is sound.

Rules Relating to Horses. In connection with the show grounds for stock, there is an excellent track for the exhibition and trial of horses. The horses will be exhibited each day during the Fair, under the direction of the Superintendent; and the time and manner of exhibition of the different classes will be announced in programmes each day.

Commodious seats for persons will be erected, and the occupants will, as usual, be required to pay a small charge. In this department, the accommodations will be equal to any heretofore in this State.

Arrangements will be made for the trial of draught horses and working oxen, by testing their strength and discipline at a load. Horses must be on the ground by 9 o'clock, A. M., and must remain on the ground until such hour as permission may be given by the General Superintendent for their removal. And any person removing an animal without such permission, will forfeit the premium should one be awarded.

Prize Animals. Animals will be exhibited in the ring prepared for that purpose, and the prizes will be affixed by the Judges previous to their leaving the inclosure—1st prize, blue ribbon, 2d, red; 3d, white.

No animals will be permitted to enter the exhibition ring except under halter, and in care of a groom, without permission of the Superintendent in charge of that department.

Prize animals will be exhibited on Friday, A. M., under the charge of the General Superintendent, after which they can be removed, the exhibitor's ticket having first been surrendered to the Superintendent.

Police. The Trustees of the Society are authorized by law to appoint, and will appoint, a sufficient number of persons to serve as Police, to preserve order. These men have the same power as constables, from noon of the day previous to the commencement of the show, to noon after the last day of the show. (See Chap. 58, Sec. 19, Revised Statutes.)

At the Police office, on the grounds, a magistrate will be in attendance, and persons violating the regulations of the Society, will be dealt with as provided in the acts of the Legislature. (Revised Statutes, Chap. 58.)

Auction Sales. A bulletin board will be erected at the Superintendent's office, for the accommodation of those wishing to publicly announce animals or articles for sale at auction. Sales to commence at 10 1-2 o'clock A. M., Friday, September 23d. The Society will furnish an auctioneer.

Sale of Articles on the Ground. No person will be allowed to sell articles on the ground without having purchased a right of the General Superintendent, and after having paid to the Treasurer the sum required. The sale of liquors will not be permitted on the ground.

Offices. The President's office will be on the show grounds, where

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Saturday, Sept. 3, 1870.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER

$2.00 in advance, or $2.50 if not paid within three months of the date of Subscription.

☞ *These terms will be rigidly adhered to in all cases.* ☜

All payments made by subscribers to the FARMER will be credited in accordance with our new mailing method. The printed date upon the paper, in connection with the subscriber's name, will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞ A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us *the name of the office to which it has previously been sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

MR. S. I. SHALL will visit Nova Scotia during the month of August and September.

MR. J. F. HUTT is now in Washington County.

MR. V. DARLING is now canvassing in Cumberland county.

Farmer Office Removed.

The Office of the MAINE FARMER has been removed to Smith's Block, on Water street, opposite Granite Hall Building.

Good Riddance to Bad Doctrine.

We congratulate the people of Maine that the project of taxing the bonds of the United States is no longer a part of the creed of any political party in the State. We always held it be a public misfortune that such action was ever advocated by any organization of our people, or by any large number of individuals. As far as regards the general principal of taxing such securities there is among eminent financiers an honest difference of opinion, and that may be considered an open question. It is hard, however, to see what would be gained in any case by such a taxation. The nation that adops that policy must pay a proportionally higher rate of interest. People who have money to loan will not put it into bonds that are to be taxed, without receiving enough interest to compensate for the expected taxation. Still, there would be nothing dishonest or dishonorable in the government providing *beforehand* that the bonds it proposes to issue should be subject to taxation. When we consider the case of bonds already issued and in the hands of individuals, the whole question depends upon the condition of the contract by which the government obtained the loan. In the case of the United States bonds now outstanding, issued to pay the expenses of the war, it was the understanding of all parties that they were free from taxation. His belief was in accordance with the uniform practice of the United States and other enlightened nations, and with the express assurances of the agents of the government, who negotiated the loan. Such a thing as the taxing of the national bonds was unheard of, until after the bulk of those at present outstanding had been issued. We can not consider the government as fully pledged not to tax them, as though it were written in black and white on the bonds themselves. To turn now and impose a tax would be simply violation of the contract. The consequences would be not merely a dissatisfaction of the creditors, but a serious blow to our credit. It would thereafter be impossible for us to obtain loans without paying an exorbitant rate of interest. It is not safe to say that we will not borrow money; for there are times, as in case of war, whether civil or foreign, when we must borrow or surrender. A nation without credit is in modern times helpless before her enemies. It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that we hail the banishment of "bond-taxation" from the creed of the Democratic party of Maine.

Bismarck Accused of Trickery.

A correspondent of the Boston *Daily Advertiser*, writing from Berlin, denies the report, which has passed as reliable among us, that Benedetti forced himself upon the King in an insulting manner at Ems, and met with a rebuff, and avers that the most cordial feeling existed between the King and the embassador throughout their interviews. The correspondent says that the whole story of the quarrel originated in the brain of Bismarck, who wrote the despatch that announced it, and sent it, without his name, to the telegraph bureau. The effect of this despatch was to inflame the passions of both nations, and to seriously embarrass all efforts for peace. It is further stated that Bismarck sent a letter to the King threatening to resign his post of prime minister if the informal interviews at Ems were not discontinued, and that in consequence of this letter the King ceased his efforts for a peaceful solution of the difficulty about the Spanish candidature.

This account of the doings at Ems, although to be received with caution, since it is so directly at variance with other reports, is not inconsistent with what is believed of Bismarck's character. He is a wily, unscrupulous intriguer. The accusation of the *Advertiser's* correspondent is not the only one against him. Our readers will remember the famous secret treaty, said to have been proposed by France to Prussia in 1866, looking toward an aggrandizement of both countries by conquering and annexing their neighbors, (France to seize upon Belgium, and Prussia upon certain German States,) the original draft of which, in Benedetti's hand-writing, was exhibited in Berlin a few weeks ago. The French government said that the scheme originated with Bismarck; and whether this be strictly true or not, it is impossible to resist the conviction that he must at least have encouraged Benedetti to submit the draft of it. Without such encouragement the astute Corsican would never have put the proposition on paper. Diplomatists do not commit themselves in black and white until they have first orally and informally ascertained that their propositions will be favorably received. So in this case also, Bismarck stands indicted for treachery. Nor is his previous record such as to warrant us in presuming him innocent of these grave charges.

THE WAR SITUATION. After the great battle of Gravelotte on the 18th of August, Bazaine made some efforts to pass the Prussians by a detour to the northward, near the Belgian boundary, and for some days afterward we had the most positive assurance from Paris that he had succeeded, and was in safe communication with MoMahon; but there is now no doubt that he is shut up in Metz with about sixty thousand troops, they say, and scanty provisions. It appears that a portion of the army at Metz did escape before the battle of Gravelotte. The Prussians immediately began the close investment of Metz, but this was not completed until Saturday morning, 27th.

The Prussian left wing has been steadily, but slowly, advancing on Paris. Directly after the battle of Gravelotte the King joined this part of the army, and fixed his headquarters at Bar le Duc. On the 21st MoMahon evacuated Chalons, burning the camp there and destroying quantities of stores that he was unable to remove. He moved to Rheims and thence turned to the northeast, as though going to the relief of Bazaine. His whole force, numbering, it was estimated, 200,000, had passed through Rheims by Tuesday noon, 23d. The forces of the Crown Prince meanwhile passed Chalons and reached Sezanne, sixty-five miles from Paris. Last Friday the Prussians in small force reached Epernay, having already occupied Chalons. On Saturday the French acknowledged them to have appeared at Rheims, and at a point on the railroad west of Rheims.

The Prussian army covers a broad belt of country, the distance between Chaumont, their extreme left, and Stenay, their extreme right, being about a hundred miles.

☞ An extraordinary trial is in progress in Reading, Pa. It is that of a girl, fourteen years of age, for the murder of an infant eleven months old. The accused, Catharine Hummel, had the child left to her care, and is supposed to have cut its throat from ear to ear with a butcher's knife. The proof is very strong against her. As she sits in the felon's dock during the trial, she is the picture of youthful innocence and beauty. She is quite calm, and appears to have no anxiety about her situation.

☞ The Kennebec Baptist Association will meet with the Church at West Waterville, Thursday, Sept. 6th, to commence at two o'clock. Preacher of the annual sermon, Rev. Wm. H. Clarke of Mount Vernon.

DEDICATION OF THE HIGH AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL HOUSE. The dedication of the new and elegant school building on State street on Friday afternoon last, was an event of much interest to the friends of education in this city. Other engagements, much to our regret, preventing attendance, we are indebted to the Kennebec *Journal* for the following report of the exercises upon the occasion:

The exercises were conducted according to the order in the published programme, the singing by the scholars forming an interesting feature of the occasion. Hon. J. W. North presided. The throne of divine grace was fervently addressed by Dr. Ricker.

Mr. North, chairman of the building committee, officially presented the new structure into the care of the directors, and made a detailed statement in regard to the initiatory steps that were taken to secure the erection of the house. The obstacles which were in the way have all disappeared. The building stands before us in symmetrical proportions, adapted throughout to the uses of the schools. The cost will much exceed the estimates. The building of this house marks a new dawn in the educational affairs of the city—what was slow and tardy is now progressive. Our facilities of education are to keep pace with the increase of population and accumulation of wealth. There will be those who will complain of the heavier burden of taxation, but this is a common cry. Posterity is to be benefited by these improvements, and it is but fair that it should bear some of the burdens. Next to the teachers in our churches he regarded the teachers in our schools. The Puritans came here with the church and school house, and were able to lay the foundations of an empire. When that empire was threatened to be rent assunder by intestine strife, the men of the free schools of the North and the Northwest rushed to its rescue, and saved it. Mr. North delivered the keys of the building to Rev. C. R. Moor, chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Moor said, that in receiving the keys it was with great satisfaction, and gratitude to God, participated in by the people of the district, that the work to which they had looked forward with so much interest and solicitude, had been accomplished. He had no doubt that while these walls have been going up, new thoughts have been growing up in the minds of the people. The building itself is but the expression of years of thought and labor; another illustration of the fact that the ideal always precedes the real. Things get into brick and mortar, only after much thinking and much acting. He would testify to the skill of the architect and faithfulness of the contractor. The building is an ornament to the city, and will be the direct means of increasing its population, by inducing people to come here to educate their children. Children of our own citizens who have remained at home will be drawn to these attractive rooms. With the exception of the State House and our church spires, no structure in the city rises to view sooner than this—none meets the eye more boldly. May its noble objects continually rise in the minds of the people. In the rebuilding, some of the shade trees had been removed to let in the sunlight. He believed the teachers and scholars would improve all such hints. He then presented the key to the principal of the High School, Mr. W. H. Lambert, who represented, also the teacher of the grammar school, as most worthy to receive them, and as holding the confidence and esteem of the district.

Mr. Lambert thanked the directors for the kind expression of confidence, and deemed himself happy in receiving the keys and holding such a position at a time so auspicious for the interest of the school, and so fraught with hope for the future. The rearing of this beautiful house is an indication of a liberal sentiment in the community, that the people of Augusta regard the cultivation of the immortal spirit of more consequence than the improvement of the water-power, building of factories or the accumulation of any merely material wealth. That town or city is the richest whose wealth consists in the right education of all our citizens. It is true as it is old that the diffusion of knowledge goes hand in hand with material prosperity. Shut up the school houses—bring up the boys and girls in the street—and then go the treasurer's books and see how the account stands, or to the census reports and see how the population increases. He then spoke of the higher considerations involved in the education of the mind, and contrasted in a very vivid manner the difference in our late war between educated soldiers and those who relied solely upon brute force and animal passion. He thought that in the present European war the graduates of the free schools of Prussia would show their superiority over the uneducated soldiers of France. He was reminded that this was an occasion of joy, and it was indeed a glad hour to teachers and scholars. He felt that the teaching force would be strengthened, and that the new school house would prove an abiding influence for good in the community. He closed by offering a noble and beautiful sentiment expressive of his interest in the schools of Augusta.

Mayor Titcomb was the next speaker. He felt as a member of the building committee he had a right to congratulate the district on the completion of their noble enterprise. He did not claim that the schools were perfect, but that they were capable of great improvement. He would rejoice to have the benefits of the graded schools of the district extend over the whole city. The old adage, "As is the teacher, so is the scholar," could be applied here not only with truth and justice, but with pride and satisfaction.

State Superintendent Johnson was called upon, and said he had come in from the dust of the field to rejoice with the people of Augusta that they had better school accommodations. He spoke of the common interest that centres in the school room, and in a humorous manner related his experience in an old-fashioned country school house in Kennebec county, where his "young ideas were taught to shoot." He thought our people were in favor of progression in this matter. He alluded to the force of education, and illustrated his point by stating the manner in which it had affected Prussia. The conflict that was now going on in Europe, he was confident would show the superiority of mind over matter.

Hon. J. W. Bradbury, who taught the first normal school in this country, responded most heartily to the sentiments that had been uttered. Education is the grandest legacy that can be left to posterity. It is the foundation of science and good morals; and as a matter of economy, it is cheaper to educate a scholar than support a criminal. He made some valuable practical suggestions to teachers, parents and scholars, that should be heeded.

His Excellency, Governor Chamberlain, who had accepted an urgent invitation to be present, had arrived in the afternoon train, and made his appearance in the school-room. On being introduced, he said that it was not his purpose to make a formal speech; but as he had received many courtesies from the citizens of Augusta, and had been treated almost as a resident for the past three years, he felt a warm and lively interest in its advancement. He was glad to notice a growing interest all over the State in educational matters, a feeling favorable to a more real and thorough education. Although we have in times past been afflicted with poor school houses, Maine has been abreast of all the States in popular education. Somehow the boys and girls, and men and women have learned how to do things, and the records that have been made in these poor tumble-down school houses have gone out to the glory of God and the good of man. While he would not detract from the past, he would rejoice in the present, and look for grander results in the future. What a wonderful thing the school house is! Think of the kindling of great, noble and high purposes which start up in the mind; how many earnest thoughts of parents linger round the precious ones gathered there; how diligently labors the careful teacher. How much interest must gather and grow within the walls of a school house. Think of the little tendrils that stretch from youthful hearts out into the world of knowledge, to take in truths that are to be interwoven into fair and beautiful lives. This thought was expanded and illustrated. The Governor closed by saying this house is not a cold and cheerless monument, but a living and beautiful temple. It is like the favored statue of old of which it is said that when the rays of the rising sun rested upon it, there came forth sounds of harmony. So shall this edifice thrill with music that shall live to tell in the coming time.

The interesting dedicatory exercises closed with prayer and benediction by Rev. C. F. Penney.

☞ An urgent appeal for aid to the sufferers by the recent disastrous fire in Calais, has been generously responded to by the people of Portland, who have already contributed and sent forward more than three thousand dollars in money, besides liberal supplies of clothing, &c. It is to be hoped that a general movement will be made throughout the State for the relief of the destitute sufferers by this great calamity.

☞ Among the fine animals occupying the stables on the State Fair Grounds, and which will be shown at the approaching exhibition, is an exceedingly promising four-year-old stallion colt after the sire of all the Knoxes, owned by Ira D. Sturgis of this city, and as an Irishman would say, the very "moral" of the old horse. We understand that Mr. Sturgis has been offered $4000 for the colt and refused the offer.

☞ All the iron for the new railroad bridge in this city, is now on the ground, with the exception of about forty tons, which will be shipped immediately, and the contractors are energetically prosecuting the work of setting up the several spans. It is expected that two of the main spans will be completed this week.

☞ We are indebted to David Cargill, Esq. agent in this city for the Ætna Life Insurance Company for a well executed Lithographic Map of the seat of War in Europe. It is issued by the company in connection with their advertisement setting forth the benefits and advantages of Life Insurance.

☞ The annual meeting of the Kennebec Valley Camp-meeting Association commenced on Tuesday last on the grounds of the Association in Richmond, to continue through the week and over the next Sabbath. Large numbers have gone from this city to attend the meetings.

FIRES IN THE WOODS—CAUTION. The injury done to our State every year by the fires that occur in the dry season is enormous. The destruction of valuable timber, although involving a very great loss, is in many sections of even less importance than the damage to the soil. There are large tracts of land, particularly in the eastern part of the State, that might have been excellent farming land but for the fires that ran over them at some very dry time and burned the very life out of the soil. Such lands will recover, if left to themselves, by the slow process of the accumulation of vegetable matter, and the amelioration of the soil by exposure to the atmosphere; but when we consider how many years, perhaps centuries, the original forest growth and air and rain and frost had been contributing their mites to bring the fertility of the soil up to the point where the fires found it, we may well believe that a century at least will be required to restore these burnt lands.

It is the duty of sportsmen and all other persons who visit the woods at this season to exercise the greatest caution in building fires. Select the bed of a brook or some spot bare of vegetable matter for a hearth, and make sure before leaving the spot that every spark is extinguished; for although a fire should be reduced to embers, and these be surrounded by an impassable trench, still a wind might blow a spark against some combustible material, and kindle the fire anew. Most of the fires in the woods at a distance from railroads are set carelessly, either by strolling parties, or by persons who are clearing up farms, and regard their own convenience more than the security of their neighbors' property.

CITY AFFAIRS. At the regular meeting of the City Council held on Saturday afternoon last, the following orders were passed:

Appropriating $500 in aid of the State Fair.

Appropriating $60 for the purpose of properly receiving and entertaining the newly organized military company in this city.

That the City Marshal attend to furnishing water for the accommodation of those visiting the city during the State Fair, at Market square, on State street, and at other places as he shall deem necessary.

That the Street Commissioner of the eastern district contract or otherwise to build a road from the south line of W. E. Barrows' land to the Belfast road, as laid out, the price not to exceed $2 per rod.

Petitioners for continuance of the road laid out from the south line of W. E. Barrows' land to the Belfast road, was granted leave to withdraw.

Committee on highways, on petition of Warren Johnson, for extension of Capitol street, reported leave to withdraw. Accepted.

The Mayor was ordered to draw his warrant for $25, to be paid to Miss Ann C. Burgess, for injuries sustained in January last, from defect in sidewalk, on north side of Cony street.

George Cony was authorized to lay down lead pipe on the south side of Bridge street, from the corner of Hamlen & Philbrook's store westerly about six rods, provided it be done under the supervision of the Street Commissioner for the western district.

Authority was granted to E. C. Allen & Co. to occupy a space five feet square on the east side of Commercial street, for the purpose of maintaining an elevator, to accommodate their printing office in Bradbury's block, to be discontinued at the pleasure of the City Council.

The remonstrance of George Cony and others against allowing obstruction on Commercial street, by elevator of E. C. Allen & Co., and by the Railroad corporation, was referred to Committee on Highways.

VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT. The Fall term of the Village District Schools commenced in this city on Wednesday last. The following are the names of the teachers and the schools to which they are assigned:

High School—W. H. Lambert, Principal; First Assistant, Miss Mary W. Lufkin; Second do, Miss Lizzie C. Vivian.

Grammar School—G. A. Robertson, Principal; First Assistant, Miss Mary S. Keene; Second do, Miss Sarah M. Phillips.

Grove street—Miss S Louise Gilman, Intermediate; Miss Emma Woodbury, Primary.

Chapel street—Miss Addie B. Pillsbury, Intermediate.

Orchard street—Miss Emma C. Church, Intermediate; Miss Florence Walker, Primary.

Crosby street—Miss Annie R. Wheeler, Intermediate; Miss Addie Blake, Primary.

Kendall street—Mrs. Zerua Humphrey, Intermediate; Miss Mary F. Phinney, Primary.

Miss Carrie S. Hodges, for several years the faithful and competant assistant in the High School, has resigned her position, and as will be seen by the above list, the vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Miss Lizzie Vivian, a recent graduate of the School.

THE CAPITOL GUARDS. The new military company, recently organized in this city, made their first public parade on Tuesday afternoon last, in an elegant uniform and with full ranks, accompanied by the Gardiner Brass Band. They marched from their armory to the State House, where they were inspected by Gov. Chamberlain, who addressed them in his usual felicitous manner, after which, proceeding through the principal streets to the square at the junction of State and Winthrop streets, in the presence of a large number of citizens, they went through a variety of military exercises. In company with their invited guests the Company then partook of a collation furnished by Mr. Thayer of the Mansion House. Short and pertinent speeches were made by Gen. Selden Connor, A. Libby, Esq., Hon. E. F. Pillsbury, Gen. Henry Boynton, Gen. G. B. Brickett, A. B. Farwell, Esq., J. M. Haynes, Esq., J. T. Woodward, Esq., and other gentlemen. The festivities of the occasion closed with a promenade concert and ball in the evening at Granite Hall.

The Company is made up of fine, vigorous looking young men, many of whom have had experience in the stern realities of soldiering. On the march, and in the various company evolutions on parade they evinced a gratifying proficiny in military drill and discipline. The officers of the Company are E. F. Wyman, Captain, and G. P. Cochrane and Wm. Ware, acting Lieutenants.

☞ The Kennebec *Journal* of Wednesday, publishes a list of the aged people of Augusta, who have reached 70 years and upwards, furnished for its columns by Charles Hamlen, Esq, one of the septuagenarians in the list whose lives commenced with the present century. The list includes the names of 148 females and 116 males, the former exceeding the latter about 30 per cent. The fact is not stated how many of these ladies are married and how many are single. It would be an interesting inquiry, as determining the comparative longevity of the two classes. The oldest woman in town is Margaret Eastman, aged 95, and the oldest man, Peter Gay, aged 94 years. Of the 148 women in the list, eighteen are 70 years of age; nine, 71; fifteen, 72; fourteen, 73; seven, 74; seventeen, 75; thirteen, 76; nine, 77; nine, 78; four, 79; seven, 80; four 81; seven, 82; two, 83; three, 84; one, 85; two, 86; two, 87; one, 88; one, 89; one, 92; one, 93; one, 95. Average age, 76¼ years.

Of the men, twenty-four are 70 years of age; twelve, 71; ten, 72; thirteen, 73; six, 74; ten, 75; eight, 76; four, 77; five, 78; three, 79; five, 80; three, 81; one, 82; two, 83; two, 84; one, 85; three, 86; three, 87; one, 94. Average age 74 years 11½ months.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. The semi-annual session of the Maine Board of Agriculture was held the present week at Mayo's Hall, Dover, most of the members, as we learn from the *Whig*, being present. The students from the State Agricultural College at Orono, to the number of about thirty were in attendance. On Thursday the Board made a tour through the towns in the vicinity to Sebec Lake returning by a different route, thus obtaining some idea of the agricultural condition and capabilities of this section of the State. An address of welcome to the Board was, at their first session, presented by C. Chamberlain, Esq., which was responded to by D. H. Thing, Esq., the presiding officer, and Prof. Fernald of the College. In the afternoon of the first day a paper on the Culture of Apple Trees was read by Col. Sweet, the member from Oxford county, followed by a discussion. We shall present an abstract of the proceedings in our next, furnished by our special contributor.

☞ A dispatch from Boston, says that Israel Day of this city, foreman of the Dana Brick Yard in Medford, Mass., was, on Tuesday last, struck and killed by a car backing on the track of the Lowell Railroad. The deceased leaves a widow and five children.

GREAT FIRE IN CALAIS—*Immense Destruction of Property.* A dispatch from Calais, dated Sunday, Aug 28th, states that a destructive fire occurred in that city on the afternoon of Saturday, at 2 o'clock which commenced on Church street, quickly communicating to blocks of stores on Maine street, the City Hall, Post Office, two livery stables, machine shop and foundry, lath and grist mill, sail loft, St. Croix Hall, dwelling houses on the lower side of Maine street, and destroying wharves and shipping in the harbor; also three new vessels on the stocks. It being low water at the time of the fire, the supply was soon exhausted and attempts, which proved partially successful, were made to save the city by blowing up buildings. About twenty million feet of lumber were burned. A quarter of a mile of wharf property was almost totally destroyed. Eighty-three stores, dwellings and shops were consumed and the Calais Advertiser establishment is a total loss, among which were four presses, including a new Cottrell & Babcock. The fire communicated to St. Stephens, opposite, but was soon extinguished. The estimated aggregate value of shipping destroyed is $100,000. Whole value of property consumed will undoubtedly reach nearly $500,000.

A special dispatch to the Bangor *Whig* says: Owing to the long drouth everything was dry as tinder, and the wind blew hard. The flames spread with frightful rapidity, leaping from roof to roof, and the buildings in the immediate vicinity were in a blaze in a very brief time. The entire business portion of the city was threatened, and the people turned out *en masse* to the rescue, but their exertions were fruitless and the devouring element had its full sway.

Goods from stores, household property and furniture were removed, but the flames licked them up before they could be taken to a place of safety. A number of persons narrowly escaped with their lives, some being almost surrounded by fire and others endangered by falling walls. The scene was fearful.

The stores occupied by Blake & Taylor, Wm. Todd, Jr., L. Silverstone, A. E. Nesill, James Perkins, the Messrs. Hill, Boardman and Brothers, S T. King & Sons, William P. Harrison, Wadsworth & Kelley, Nickerson & Rideout, Hunton Brothers, George W. Eye, Daniel Hill, and C. Waite & Co., were destroyed with nearly all their contents.

The following buildings were also burned to the ground: Calais *Advertiser* Office, Bayl y's Pantograph Rooms, Wadsworth & Kelley's Grist Mill, Benjamin Hutchings' Sail Loft, Hitchcock & Cone's Livery Stable, Peabody, McDonald & Co's. Machine shops and Hamilton's Foundry.

St. Croix Hall, with the City Rooms and Post Office was also laid in ashes, as were the Congregational Vestry and the Masonic Hall.

The dwellings of C. H. Foster, A. L. Clapp, John McAllister, B. F. Waite, Samuel Melley, Jr., Charles L Deming, John Crafton, W. B. Foster, Mrs. Spring, James Robbins, L. D. Sawyer, Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. McAllister, Captain Wells, Dr. Seymour and L. Silverstone were totally destroyed.

Extending below, the fire took on the wharves, destroying them with much valuable lumber on them, and the vessels lying alongside, the tide being so out the latter could not haul out for safety. Nickerson & Rideouts, Wm. Hinds, and Robertson's Shipyards were burned over, and three vessels on the marine Railway and Dry Dock consumed. The following wharves were burned to the water's edge: Daniel Hill's, G. A. Boardman & Co.'s, H. F. Eaton's, McAllister & Lovejoy's, Eaton Brothers', F. A. Todd's, Abner Hill's, P. Rolf, Jr., Wadsworth & Kelley's, and John McAdams & Sons.

Schooners Hudson, Almeda, Algoma, Valhalla, Lucy, Gen. Peavey, Chostaw, E. L. Higgins, Ossina, Dispatch, W. H. Maler, and Maud Mulloch, were totally destroyed, and Schr. Champion was greatly damaged.

The total loss reaches over half a million dollars, about one-third of which was insured.

The loss falls heavily upon our city, and it must be years before it can be repaired. Contributions are freely made for the aid of those turned out of their homes, and the citizens are doing everything in their power to relieve their suffering.

IMPROVEMENTS AT WEST WATERVILLE. An occasional correspondent writing from West Waterville gives the following interesting particulars concerning building and other improvements in that enterprising village:

"The Dunn Edge Tool Company and Hubbard, Blake & Co., have all the scythes and axes they can make; the two companies employ seventy-five workmen and are enlarging their works every year. In addition to these there is another company just formed by Emerson, Stevens & Co., who have commenced to lay the foundation for a large shop for the manufactory of scythes and axes. Shop to be 180 by 65 feet, store-house and office 65 by 45 feet. The shop is to be set a few rods below Benjamin & Allen's agricultural shop. They have also commenced to lay the foundation of the Memorial Hall, which is to be built of stone; some twenty-five men are at work on the stone and lot. It will be situated in the corner of Church and Grove streets, (the lot is a grove). A new school-house has just been completed on Church street which makes us three large school-houses, one of them two story and a basement. Benjamin & Allen are doing a large business in manufacturing their improved threshing machines and separators. They have this season got out the material for seventy-five machines together with their large amount of repairs and agricultural manufacturing. We have nine stores, four churches, a Savings Bank, and a Lodge of Good Templars in a flourishing condition and about every man is a reader of the MAINE FARMER and *Maine Temperance Journal*, and there is not a rum-shop in the place."

SHIP LAUNCH IN BELFAST. A correspondent writes us as follows:

Was launched on Saturday last, Aug. 27th, at Capt. Henry McGilvery's shipyard in Belfast, the A No. 1, white oak ship, Alice Buck. She is a 1600 ton ship of admirable design, giving her great carrying capacity, and making her one of the most elegant things afloat; and from the best authority we learn that the Alice Buck is probably as staunch and fine a piece of marine architecture as can be produced in this country. The length of the Alice Buck, 198½ feet, width 38 feet, depth 24 feet—double deck. From keel to main truck about 165 feet.

Capt. Henry McGilvery by his skill and enterprise in his business, has already won the reputation of being equal to any ship-builder in New England. We are also glad to know that the Captain has succeeded not only in building good ships, but also in making a good thing of it for himself. He richly deserves it.

In connection with Capt. McGilvery's ship-yard he has a full supply of steam power, which is a very desirable acquisition to his business. It may also be mentioned that there is a bark of 500 tons building in the same yard, for Capt. E. V. McGilvery, a son of Capt. Henry McGilvery, and to be owned principally or wholly in the family.

The first commander of the ship Alice Buck will be Capt. Phinehas Pendelton of Searsport, who in forty years experience on the ocean never lost a ship, nor met with a serious disaster. Propitious gales for the Alice Buck, and large dividends for her owners!

THE MAINE CHAMPIONS. The Dirigo Base Ball Club of this city played five games with as many different clubs in Boston and vicinity last week, winning three and losing two of the games. The first was played on Tuesday with the Bay States of Lynn, the score standing Bay States 23, Dirigo 19; on Wednesday with the Excelsiors of Boston, Dirigos 30, Excelsiors 19; on Thursday with the Union of Charlestown, Unas 38, Dirigos 17; on Friday with the Auroras of Chelsea, Dirigos 32, Auroras 18; on Saturday with the Young Americas of Waltham, Dirigos 25, Young Americas 24. In the game with the Excelsiors a prize bat, offered by Mr. M. B. Sumner for the best score of the day, was won by Mr. Flagg of the Dirigos.

☞ The Fall Term of the Oak Grove Seminary, in Vassalboro', commenced on the 22d of August with about seventy-five students, under the management of Richard M. Jones, Principal, and Joseph Maxfield, Master, and Mrs. Maxfield, Matron. Mr. Jones is fully qualified for the position, and intends to make the institution inferior to no other for educating young persons. Its location is a delightful one, and is away from unfavorable influences. Parents and guardians may feel assured in sending their children there, that they will be properly cared for and every attention given them for their advantage.

☞ A correspondent writes us that notwithstanding the low stage of the water the driving of logs still continues on the Penobscot. On Monday last three or four millions for the steam-mills in Bangor, were turned over the dam at Great Works. The mills at that point were obliged to shut down meanwhile.

☞ Reduced fare to the Alton-Bay Campmeeting, N. H., over all railroads in New England. A delightful place on the shore of the Winnipiseogee Lake. Tickets good from Sept. 1st to 12th, for sale at all ticket offices.

TERRIBLE THUNDER STORM. Late on Thursday evening last, one of the most grand and terrible thunder-storms on record broke over the town of Kingston, N. Y., during the performance of Bailey's circus troupe before an audience of about six thousand people. A bolt descended at about 8 P. M., striking the south side of the tent near the top, making a tremendous rent, and passing through and across the tent, where it struck and shivered a tree just outside. Near the tree was a peach vender's wagon, around which a crowd of people had gathered, and of these five were instantly killed. The horse was killed and the wagon shattered into a thousand pieces. The scene within the tent is described as one of the most terrible ever witnessed. As the thunder bolt fell, the performers stopped short, standing in the ring as though paralized; while the audience ghastly with fear, arose in wild confusion, each rushing madly towards the entrance to the tent. The caged beasts roared loudly with fear and terror, and it was well that they were so safely confined as to defy their frantic efforts to escape To add to the confusion the rain began to descend in torrents, and when the audience, after pushing and pressing, got out doors, they were thoroughly drenched in a moment. After a time, when the killed and wounded had been removed, the performance was resumed, but to a very slim audience.

FIRE IN GORHAM. On Saturday evening last, about 8 o'clock, the large barn connected with the house owned by Col. Wm. Freeman in Gorham village, was discovered to be on fire. The wind blew strong in the direction of the house, and in a short time the connecting buildings and the house were all in flames. Mr. Almon Files, who occupied the house, was able to remove but a few articles of furniture; the family lost a large balance, also all their clothing. Col. Freeman's loss is heavy. The buildings were large and well constructed. There was stored in the house a large amount of furniture, on which there was no insurance. The farming tools, valued at one thousand dollars, one hundred and fifty bushels barley, fifty tons hay, a large quantity of peas, hay seed, &c., were consumed. The total loss was $5,100, on which there was an insurance of $2,500. It is the universal belief that the fire was the work of an incendiary. A man was seen approaching the barn and suddenly leave it just before the fire was discovered. The farm connected with the set of buildings which were consumed, has been considered one of the best hay farms in Gorham.

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY. The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* says the work of reducing the number of army officers in accordance with the provisions of the new army act is well begun. The names of some, long absent from their commands, have been dropped from the rolls. A good many have already resigned on one year's pay, and more have indicated a purpose to do so. Assignments of supernumeraries to vacancies and duty are making. The retired list is to be increased by 120, and about that number have applied to be retired. Those not retired by right of long service are to be examined, and retirement will probably be refused to some of those who have made applications. Steps have been taken to get lists of those who department commanders think ought to be mustered out for incompetency. These are to go before a board which will not be appointed for some weeks. The required reduction in rank and file will be made in due season mostly by expiration of the term of service of enlisted men and non-commissioned officers.

RIOT IN FALL RIVER. Considerable disturbance occurred in Fall River, Mass., last week, growing out of a strike by the spinners connected with the factories at that place. It seems that some of the spinners, whose families were in a suffering condition, consented to return to their work at the old prices. This so exasperated the strikers that they gathered in large numbers Wednesday afternoon before the close of mill hours, determined to inflict violence upon the seceders. Great excitement prevailed, but the intended victims were protected. Thursday evening the crowd around the Durfee mill in Fall River, was larger than at any time before, but the operatives went out unmolested save by hoots and groans. The mob were repressed by the presence under arms of four companies of the State militia, 100 special constables and 16 State constables, besides the regular police force of the city. The Mayor issued a proclamation Thursday afternoon cautioning the people not to mingle in the riotous assembly.

PROCLAMATION OF NEUTRALITY. President Grant has issued a proclamation officially announcing the neutrality of the United States in the war between France and Prussia, and forbidding any citizen of this country from doing any act covered by our neutrality laws, viz: accepting a commission or serving in the army under either power, or procuring others to do this; fitting out any armed expedition for either power, or providing means for any military expedition. The proclamation announces the rules of international law for the government of neutrals, and gives notice to all citizens of the United States and others who may claim the protection of the government who may misconduct themselves in the premises do so at their peril, and that they can in no wise obtain any protection from the government against the consequences of their misconduct.

☞ The Third Congressional District Democratic Convention was held in this city on Tuesday of last week. Hon. E. Wilder Farley of Newcastle, was nominated as candidate for Congress by acclamation, and resolutions were adopted in favor of free trade, taxation of bonds, a rigid regulation of the sale of liquor, inviting the co-operation of dissatisfied Republicans, and endorsing the Democratic candidates.

On the same day the County Convention was held and the following nominations made:—For Senators, T. L. Stanton, Monmouth; J. W. Freese, Augusta; Geo. C. Getchell, Waterville. County Commissioner, James Whittier, Albion. County Treasurer, Vassal D. Pinkham, Augusta. County Attorney, Samuel F. Webb, Winthrop. Sheriff, Thomas Holmes, Litchfield.

☞ The Dominion of Canada is still suffering from the ravages of fire. There are heavy fires in the woods along the boundary between New Brunswick and Maine and villages in Charlotte county are suffering severely. At Ottawa large subscriptions are being made for the sufferers by the late fires, and the Government will probably grant assistance. Many of the people are living in tents furnished by the Government. A Montreal dispatch says immense fires are raging in the woods back of the village of Ashton. The village was saved by cutting down trees to make a gap between the woods and village. The devastation is great between Ashton and Sholesville. Only one or two houses are left unburned.

MAINE CENTRAL RAILROAD. At a meeting of the Directors of the Maine Central Railroad, held in this city on Saturday last, it was agreed to adopt the short route in extending the road from Danville Junction. The east survey was taken and the road therefore strikes the P. & K. track at Cumberland instead of Falmouth. Owing to some misunderstanding about term of contract, &c., the time for considering proposals was extended till next Thursday night. Work will be pushed forward as fast as possible, and the new road independent of the Grand Trunk, will be completed within one year.

FATAL ACCIDENT. In Gardiner, on Tuesday morning last, Lewis Bailey, one of the workmen engaged in repairing the pier of the bridge, fell into the water and did not come to the surface until pulled up by ropes and hooks, being under water one hour and twenty minutes. Efforts for resuscitation were continued for three hours, but without success. He was fifty-two years of age and leaves a wife and two daughters.

☞ Serious fires are reported in the woods near Ellsworth. They have approached within inconvenient distance of the village. Last Saturday a fire was raging along the north side of the Maine Central Railroad east of Newport, and on the south side smoke was rising from a long line of country visible from all points of the road between Clinton and Carmel.

☞ A Woodstock, N. B, dispatch says a very heavy thunder and rain storm occurred Tuesday night which caused the river Thames to overflow and do considerable damage. Near Beechville a culvert was broken and a part of the Great Western Railway track was carried away. The cars of the steamboat express train going west were thrown off the track and considerably damaged, but no lives were lost and but few passengers were injured.

Items of Maine News.

The colony of New Sweden is increasing. A stalwart boy was born to one of the settlers last week. Three native Swedes direct from home have just joined, one of whom is a man of some property, and Mr. Thomas is on his way to Halifax to meet and escort to their new homes about twenty five others, who are expected by steamer.

W. T. Sleeper writes to the *Patten Voice* that it is almost a continuous village from Grand Falls to Fort Kent, a distance of 50 miles. Some of the people are descendants of Acadians, driven from Nova Scotia by English over a century ago. He conversed with men who lived on farms occupied by their fathers 99 years ago. They are industrious and temperate people.

The *Bath Times* says that in excavating a burrow pit on Grose Island, in the Sheepscot river, a few days since, a skeleton was unearthed ten or twelve feet below the surface, in a sitting position It was completely enveloped in birch-bark, and the remains indicate that they belonged to a person of gigantic size—in all probability an Indian.

Heman Wood of East Buckfield, 83 years of age, went out on the morning of the 8th, the Oxford *Democrat* says, to pick blackberries; but as he did not return search was made for him and the next afternoon he was found in an exhausted state, in a hollow on his farm, having been exposed to a burning sun by day and dews by night. He died on the 11th.

The Bangor *Whig* says that the venerable Rev. Dr. Pond, who has been connected with the Bangor Theological Seminary for about forty years, occupying some one of the Professor's chairs,—and sometimes two—during all that time, who has seen the institution grow from infancy to full stature, who will be ever remembered by the numerous graduates with almost filial affection, has reached a good old age and has resigned his seat as Professor, that resignation to take effect when a successor shall be found. He retires with an annual pension of one thousand dollars and the use of a house through life.

The township of Dover was originally purchased of the government of Massachusetts by Mr. Vaughn of Hallowell, for the meagre sum it is said, of eight cents per acre.

Wm H. Page, who was taken sick soon after being chosen on the last legislature from Vinalhaven, died on the 19th instant. He was the first to open the great granite quarries now so extensively worked there.

In the region of Ellsworth the porgy fishing has almost entirely failed for the reason that very few porgies have come into the bays. The supply has not been sufficient to furnish the mackerel vessels with "slivers" for bait.

A man in Baldwin, robbed a drunken Irish railroad laborer of $10 or $

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Foreign News.

The War in Europe.

Confident Feeling of the French People.

Paris, Aug. 24, La Patrie of to-day says that should Prussia defeat the great army now confronting near Chalons they will have to vanquish another before reaching Paris, and besides will find Paris itself amply prepared to resist an attack. It is noticeable that the people here are growing more and more confident as they learn how great the measures of defense are throughout the country.

The Minister of the Interior authorizes the statement that additional advices of a favorable character have been received from the armies in the field, but the information is purposely withheld from the public as some journals indiscreetly give details which should be kept back.

The *Constitutional*, semi-official, says:—Without entering into details we may affirm that work on the fortifications of the capital are progressing with wonderful rapidity, and the clan of the population is immense.

Prussian papers represent Paris as not Paris in the period between 1792 to 1815 They will discover their mistake. The capital proves now as ever that she is the heart of France, ready to receive the enemy. Neither spies nor battalions can break down the wall of defense which her danger has created. Should the Prussians advance to the ramparts of Paris they will find this out. The process of the incorporation of the national guard with the regular armies has commenced. It is announced that a Prussian spy near Rheims, mistaking an officer for Gen. MacMahon, fired upon at him, missed his aim and dangerously wounded a soldier standing by the side of the officer. The spy was instantly secured.

The *Constitutional*, in an editorial showing an improvement in the situation, says that it is reported that there was another engagement on Sunday, the 21st, which resulted favorably to the French. It gives no particulars. A battalion of sharpshooters passing through Paris last night created great enthusiasm. The morals of the city is vastly improved. There is less singing and shouting and more volunteering.

All the citizens are providing themselves with arms The wounded who return from the field receive an ovation and are treated with every attention. It is rumored that a well known lady of high social position here has been arrested on the charge of conveying information to the enemy, and imprisoned in Vincennes.

Another View of the Army Situation.

Brussels, Aug 25,—[Special to *New York Sun.*] I did not succeed in reaching Bazaine. The Prussians are everywhere and guarding every pass. At Uekauige, Grand Runge and Richmond the railroad is out and the way from Montmedy and Thionville is equally out of order.

Bazaine is not at Verdun. He is shut up in a Prussian net between Metz, Grand Runge, the river Orne and the road from Metz to Etain.

McMahon left Chalons after burning the camp for Rheims. There he left the Emperor a part of the troops and went in a northeast direction, but I can not yet ascertain if it is a movement or a reconnoissance. As far as I can see the spirits of the troops is excellent, but I never saw before so much incompetency and disorder in manoeuvering. I feel perfectly satisfied that the leaders do not know better. Gen Le Brim assumes the command of the 12th corps, vice Trochu.

London, Aug. 24. Paris telegrams just received declare that Metz is certainly isolated, that the Prussians have cut off communication between Thionville, Montmedy and Metz, but that Marshals McMahon and Bazaine were in daily communication; that no mediation was likely to succeed unless Napoleon takes the initiative. Another Paris special says that *La Patrie* reiterates that McMahon's forces are not with or near Bazaine in the Ardennes Mountains; but another authority reports that it is only the army of Chalons; the regularly located army there, that joined Bazaine and that the latter still keeps all his lines intact.

A Tribune Correspondent on the Movements of Marshal Bazaine.

London, Aug. 24.—[Special to *Tribune.*]Our special correspondent from Rheims on Monday says the Chalons camp is so completely deserted that not a straggler is to be seen. We found them again on the road to Rheims, which is crowded with troops of every arm. As we approached the city we saw the French army encamped parallel to the road from St M nhould and separated from it by the Noir Vesle. They are camped on the right bank of Vale looking down stream. I will not pretend to say what this unexpected movement means, but it looks as if part at least of Bazaines army had escaped from Metz and free expected to join the Chalons army at or near Rheims. There is a rumor that Bazaine is passing through Grandpre and Vouziers. What makes it look probable is that a strong force of light cavalry is here and two brigades of chasseurs and hussars. They are probably the advance guard.

Since I began this letter news has been received at the Prefecture that Bazaine with a part of his army is fast retreating by Vouziers, very hard pressed by the Prussians. He was obliged to abandon his retreat on Verdun, the road to which was completely in possession of the Prussians, and that is why all the prisoners and munitions were sent back from Verdun to Rheims.

If any force has succeeded in reaching Vouziers or is on the road thither, it must have escaped Metz on the northwest, or is perhaps that column which we believe had got past Gravelotte before the Prussians seized that road on the 18th, but no word has come direct from Bazaine for two days, and my belief is that he is cut off. At any rate his nearest line of retreat was closed, and if he were driven off into the Ardennes there is no telling when the junction of his forces with those of McMahon can be accomplished, and if they join who is to command, for neither will serve under the other. Discontent is spreading among the troops and men and among the officers, who are discouraged by the failure of Bazaine thus far to unite with McMahon.

Rumored Defeat of the Prussians.

Paris, Aug. 25—Evening.—The Figaro this afternoon on tains the following;—"A person who arrived from the vicinity of Epernay this evening states that the Prussians were defeated to-day between Verdun and Chalons"

Paris Aug 20—9 P. M.—The *Figaro* has just issued an extra with the following:—A person who arrived in Paris at 8 o'clock to-night, direct from Epernay, reports that he heard in that city that the Prussians were defeated to-day between Verdun and Chalons. Groups of Prussian stragglers have arrived. Infantry were continually coming to Chalons. The combat commenced this morning at 3 o'clock and the news reached Chalons and Epernay at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Nothing definite is stated as to the number of men engaged.

Methods for the Defense of Paris.

A council of ministers has been in session half of to-day. It has been decided by the Committee of Defence that upon the approach of the army all the departments of the Seine and Marne and in the environs of Paris must be destroyed, and greater haste is urged on the farmers to store their produce in the government warehouses in the city before the enemy can seize it. All the animals in the Zoological Garden in the Bois de Boulogne have been removed. Part of them have been retained in the city and part sent to Belgium. Some of the animals are of great value.

The *Journal Official* this morning says that the sum of the news received at the Ministry of the Interior is that the Prussians will push their reconnoissance into the department of Marne; even into the town of Chalons. The prefect of the department of the upper Maine announces that a portion of the northern arrondisement of Vassy is occupied by the Prusian forces, and orders have been given to march. The Prussians will be opposed by every obstacle which the patriotism of the people can suggest in addition to the systematic measures which will be executed under the direction of engineer officers sent out by the government. An official warning is given by the Minister of the Interior that he will be forced to apply the law regulating the press with the utmost vigor if certain journals in spite of the representations of the government continue to publish reports of the movements of the troops, state of the fortifications and the composition of the armies.

The grain mills in the valley of the Seine and Marne and all their contents which could not be removed have been purposely burned. The country people are destroying the roads and doing all they can to impede the march of the Prussian armies. They will burn or destroy such provisions as they are unable to remove or store out of the reach of the Prussians

Cadres of the garde mobile have been formed everywhere and guns distributed in the territories. With the three grand army corps in the rear of France the distribution is nearly completed. In the Corps Legislatif yesterday the motion of M. Keratry to enlarge the committee of defence was taken up and discussed at great length and with much excitement. M. Keratry defended his proposal and Clement. Devernos replied. Jules Favre declared that the miseries of the country came from that fatal management to which the Chambers had been compelled to submit. This should be said if it is to maintain a dynasty that the country must fight. The remainder of the sentence was lost in the uproar and tumult which these words caused.

M. Buffet said that the only question now was to drive the foreigners from our soil. This was received with great applause and the close of the debat was ordered by a vote of 240 to 55. The proposition of M. Keratry was then rejected, 226 against 41. M Gambetta demanded news of the war, especially concerning the battle of the 18th and the position of the Prussian forces.

M. Chevreau, Minister of the Interior, replied, Marshal Bazaine was too greatly occupied to send a report. He added that the telegraph gave no indication of an engagement to-day (Wednesday). It was true that Prussian scouts had been in the department of Marne and Aube, but in this report no further advices can be given. The Minister concluded by stating that if the French troops had left Chalons it was with the object of insuring the general defence of the country, The sitting then dissolved.

Position of the Prussian Armies.

Berlin, Aug. 25—7.30 P.M.—The Prussian Monitor says that King William's headquarters have been removed from Pont a Mousson to Bar le Duc. The headquarters of the 1st and 2nd army corps is near Metz while the other corps continue their march on Paris.

The *Tribune* special correspondent from the Crown Prince's headquarters 17th inst. says that there is no delay in the advance. The Crown Prince has advanced through northern Alsace into Lorraine. Two other German armies have entered the French territory from Rheims.

This evening there were about 150,000 troops in and about Rheims under MacMahon. During the night they began to move towards Ardennes, and are still moving in that direction By noon this place will be entirely evacuated. They take the road to Rethel and Mesieres, but I learn that the officers do not know how far they will go in that direction.

Prince Frederic Charles Marching on Paris.

Paris, Aug. 25. The corps of Prince Frederick Charles and a portion of the King's army is undoubtedly marching on Paris, while Gen. Steinmetz is left to hold Bazaine. The enemy may reach Paris within six days should there be no change in their plans. The Senate and Corps Legislatif are to be notified of these facts to day.

Accounts from the places now occupied by the Prussians show that the hostility of the inhabitants is increasing and is encouraged by the Mobile Gardes and sharpshooters, who attack small bands of Prussians, killing and wounding many. The provincial journals say that the Prussians increase the anger and hatred of the peasants by desecrating the Catholic churches.

Several rich prizes have been taken by the fleets in the channel and Baltic

The latest news from Strasbourg is that six persons were killed and sixteen houses burned and the Cathedral slightly damaged. The people take refuge in their cellars The fire from the town is killing a large number of the besiegers. As many spies still lurk in the city, the commandant has ordered the soldiers to shoot any persons seen on the roofs.

Letters from Rheims and one received via Belgium from the French camp, report that Bazaine gained a great advantage in the battle on the 23d, capturing many guns and prisoners. These reports are, however, probably a repetition of previous rumors, which have not been confirmed and are only telegraphed in advance of official information.

Advices from Paris that eight departments are in the possession of the Prussians, namely, the lower and upper Raine, Moselle, Meurthe, Meuse, Vosges, Marne and Haute Marne. They contain 3,361,000 inhabitants. Great suffering prevails in consequences of the Prussian requisitions.

London, Aug. 26—3 P. M—A strong detachment of Prussian cavalry occupied Donlevant. The Prussian currasiers are encamped at St. Reiny.

Prussian cavalry is reported at Donlevant, St. Rhay-Brienne, Laudres and Chateau Talerry. The latter in 50 miles from Paris.

Paris Aug. 25 —Pfalsbourg continues its heroic defence. A church and twenty-one houses have been destroyed by the enemy's shells and the garrison has repulsed two assaults in which the Prussians lost 1500 men. The town is well supplied with provisions and munitions of war. It has been summoned repeatedly to capitulate, but its commander replies that he will blow the place up first.

Another Battle Reported.

Carlsruhe, Aug' 26, via London, Aug 26—1 P. M Heavy fighting commenced last night at the town of Stenay ten miles from Montmedy, in the direction of Vouziers. The Prussians cut the railway between Chauvirages and Limoneilly. The wounded are brought from Montmedy. The gates of the city have been closed. An assault is momentarily expected.

Paris, Aug. 27,—The Constitutionel says that the idea to call out for active service all former soldiers from ages 25 to 35, married or unmarried, has created considerable uneasiness. The writer adds that it would be better to incorporate 350,000 garde mobile in the regular army. The Constitutionel says the Prussians act not only against ordinary military laws, but also those of humanity. At Saarsburg they have cruelly forced all young men to work in the trenches, and in some cases threatened them with death if they refused. Shots from the ramparts of the besieged city kill the laborers in the Prussian army, thus the Frenchmen are forced to kill their brethren. Such acts are unworthy of this age. They give a singular idea of Prussian civilization. They resolve only to increase the national hatred and to augment our determination to punish.

The Constitutionel adds: We must prepare as though we expected the enemy at the gates to-morrow. We must be calm and resolute and ready to face the danger. When places like Toul, Pfalsbourg, Strasbourg and Metz resist so bravely, shall not Paris, so strong and so difficult to surround, keep back the enemy.

We are more than 300,000 strong, not counting all who are able to bear arms. Our city must be the rampart of civilization.

Rumors of a Rupture between the Government and Gen. Trochu.

One of the city journals this evening has a remarkable editorial, of which the following is an extract: "Next to the near approach of the Prussians to the walls of Paris and that which occupies the public altogether, is the possibility of an open rupture between the Government and Gen. Trochu."

It is reported that the Empress has demanded the dismissal of Gen. Trochu from his position of Governor of Paris, but we can affirm nothing positive. It is true, nevertheless, that a person has carelessly expressed the opinion that Trochu, in the presence of the Empress, had been asked to retire.

French Report of a Prussian Repulse on Thursday.

The following official intelligence has been made public: On the 25th inst., at nine o'clock in the morning, Verdun was attacked by the Prussians, 10,000 strong, commanded by the Crown Prince of Saxony. After an ardent combat which lasted three hours, and during which 300 shells were thrown into the city, the Prussians, much injured by our artillery were repulsed with considerable loss. The garde national served the guns. We have five killed and twelve wounded. The enemy fired on the ambulance train, which was struck seventeen times. Two persons belonging to it were killed. The citizens made a vigorous resistance.

The movement of the Prussians along the Aubezers seems to have been arrested. They are falling back on the Dizier through Luenville and Bayon. Large bodies of infantry are passing.

Report from French Sources.

Paris, Aug 28,—Robert Mitchell, late editor of the Constitutionel, writes Thursday evening from Marshal McMahon's headquarters at Bethel, near Montmedy, as follows: I was very down hearted when I left Paris at the progress which the Prussians had already made in the invasion of France, but since I have been with the army my mind has been completely changed and I am now certain of our ultimate success. Since the first unfortunate defeat on the Rhine, our army has never come in collision with the Prussians without maintaining our positions and inflicting tremendous losses on the enemy. I saw and conversed with the Emperor yesterday. He is in excellent health and spirits. It is impossible to describe the enthusiasm which prevails in the army. We leave here this afternoon and take the direction of Metz. Beyond that we have no indication of what the real result will be—Rest assured that in a few days you will receive news that will surprise you. The Duke of Saldanha is expected here in a few days to take his old position as Ambassador to Portugal.

McMahon's army is at Stenay, the Emperor is at Remonville, and the Prince Imperial is at Rethel The Prussians push their reconnoisances as far as Montmedy. La Liberte to-day, says the general of the army of the Rhine arrived in Paris last night and had an interview with the Empress, and started immediately on his return. We may expect within a day or two a brilliant combat.

La Liberte adds that a person who saw the Emperor on the 25th affirms that the armies of Marshal Bazaine and McMahon are near each other.

The *Journal* of France of to-day says that we learn from a certain source, that before ordering the army of the Prince Royal to march on Paris, the King held at Pont a Mouson a council of war, composed of the Generals and the Prince commanding. The advice of all was to remain in the territory which had been conquered and fortify the right bank of the Rhine. The King alone was determined to march on Paris. The Prince Royal slept night before last at the Chalons prefecture. In case of the seige of Paris, Government officials, other than the ministers, will go to Tours, Bourges and Lyons to administer to the provinces uninvaded by the enemy.

An American Ambulance Train.

To-day American ambulances under the direction of Dr. Simes, left for Metz. Dr. Pratt and many other members of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, accompanied the train in uniform. The daughter of Dr. Simes marched at the head of the procession, bearing the banner of France and the United States. A great sensation was created among the spectators as the train moved through the streets. The crowd cheered and gave liberally to those collecting money for the wounded. This ambulance service will be strictly impartial in its ministrations, treating French and Prussians alike.

Unfortunate Condition of the Peasants.

A late copy of the journal of Nancy says that the saddest thing of all is the condition of the unfortunate farmers and peasants. Our tears flow at the sight of long wagons loaded with oats, hay and provisions of every kind to be given over to the Prussian army. The fine horses which were to prepare the soil for the future harvests have been harnessed to Prussian cannon. Since everything is scattered and destroyed on the day after harvest, it equally follows that a remarkable barenes of country must issue. The difficulties of the entire year are crowded into one moment. The ruin is complete and unspeakable. Long years will be necessary to repair the damages of these few days of invasion.

Investment of Metz.

Berlin, Aug. 27, 6 P. M.—The Prussian general headquarters are temporarily at St. Dizier. Great quantities of stores for the use of the Prussian army are accumulating at Nancy. At 8 o'clock this morning Metz was completely invested. Marshal Bazaine, who is in command there, makes no effort to effect a passage. Deserters report the extreme demoralization of the garrison. The Prussians are strongly entrenched before that place. Of the three new armies just organized in Germany, one will march on Germany with the Prince Royal and the others will remain to protect the rear.

Prussian Success at Vitry.

London, Aug. 28.—The following official dispatch dated Bar le Duc, Friday nighe, has been received: The garrison of Vitry was surrounded on Thursday morning by the Prussians, who captured sixteen guns, and two battalions of the French Garde Mobile were annihilated by the Prussian cavalry. Seventeen French officers and 850 soldiers were captured. The Prussians had a major severely and three troopers slightly wounded.

Berlin, Aug. 28.—[Special to *Herald.*]—The disposition of different German armies is as follows: There are eighteen corps d' armee containing 40,000 men each; first army under Gen. Steinmetz, has 1st, 7th and 8th corps at Metz; second army under Prince Frederick Charles has the 2d, 3d, 9th and 10th corps at Metz; third army under Prussian Crown Prince has the 5th, 6th and 11th corps and the Bavarian corps, marching on Paris; the fourth army, under Crown Prince of Saxony, has the 4th and 12th corps, and the Saxon and Prussian guards; fifth army under Gen. Werden, has Wurtemburg and Baden division, and is engaged in the seige of Strasbourg; the sixth army under Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, is on the Rhine; the seventh army under Gens. Von Canstein and Loewerfeld, is at Berlin. Three of these armies are in reserve.

The Siege of Paris Inevitable.

London, Aug. 28—The seige of Paris is inevitable. It is even said that government prefers that result to a pitched battle. The papers invite the French to rush to the defences in spite of the supineness of the government.

Paris journals also say the advance of the Crown Prince is fatal to the Prussian campaign.

The Situation of the Armies and the Prussian Plan.

Arlon, Aug. 29, via Brussels. Prussia is making a flank movement on Marshal McMahon the same as they did on Marshal Bazaine. This is the situation of both armies: McMahon as I have told you, already occupies the line from Rethel to Stenay, leaning on Mezieres, Sedan and Montmedy, with the Belgium boundary behind. The Prussians who are marching on to Paris deployed from Stenay to Troyes and have changed their direction. Instead of going west they are going north. Their troops around Troyes march in the direction of Romilly; those around Chalons in that of Saippe, and those which were between Stenay and Varennes in the direction of Rethel by Grand Arce and Vouziers, while a strong force is at Dun observing the left of McMahon at Stenay. Meanwhile strong Prussian columns are advancing from Luenville and Joinville to St. Dizier where the headquarters of the King were reported to be yesterday. The manifest intention of the Prussians is to destroy Marshal McMahon as they destroyed Marshal Bazaine and then turn their attention to Paris. A great battle will certainly be fought before many days between Rethel and Montmedy. Do not believe the despatch from Rethel this morning saying that Marshal McMahon and Bazaine are in communication.

A History of Prussian Army Movements.

London, Aug 29. The following is a resume of the history of the Prussian army since the commencement of the invasion of France: After the check encountered by the French vanguard near Saarburck, Aug. 6th, followed by the rout of McMahon, the French main body retired on the line of the Moselle to the fortress of Thionville and Metz, defences of the first order and well supplied, and the entrenched camps which were constructed gave great strength to their new position. A direct attack would have been difficult, therefore the German armies passed to the south of Metz towards Moselle to cross it above the city and discover the enemy's movements. Such great masses of troops covering a wide region required special precautions. The first army was to flank the enemy's line of Moselle, and directed to take a new position near the river Neid Meantime the first and second armies approached each other, a division passing over the Moselle. The same division that took part in a fight in which the French were repulsed and pursued until they reached the protection of the guns of Metz. The combat resulted greatly to the advantage of the Prussians, as it retarded the French retreat and the advantage was easily followed up. Two roads connect Metz with Verdun and Verdun with Paris. The second army is refraining from the passage of the Moselle and Paris is thus threatened. The French are obliged to withdraw from the right bank of the bank of the Moselle before Metz, not being strong enough to stop the Prussian movements. The advance of the first army, observing the movements of the French, attacked on the 14th the French rear, throwing it upon the main body, which was compelled to send back several divisions to support the rear. The Prussian 1st and 7th corps went on the south side to compel the French to face about. They succeeded after a bloody and victorious conflict. The Prussian 5th division attacked Frossard, and by degrees the entire French force became engaged, and of the Prussian forces the other divisions, the 31 corps, 10th corps, a regiment of the 6th corps and a brigade of the 8th corps participated. Frederick Charles had taken command. The movement was successful, and the southerly road to Paris was intercepted. The Prussians fought heroically and the losses were large, but those of the French, and especially the Imperial Garde, were immense. The French official reports estimate the Prussian force engaged at double what it was.

The only way for the Emperor to escape isolation from Paris and his supplies lay on the northern line. The Prussian army on the south, finding no enemy before it, fell back, combining with the other army. A joint attack on the French was then planned. The French ceasing to retreat by the northern line took position on the heights before Metz The 24 army moved to the right, fixing its centre and left at Vionville and Armanville, while its right rested in contact with the 1st army. Absolute readiness for a simultaneous move along the entire line was requisite, as the French position was a strong one. At the start the 9th corps encountered the advanced detachments, who opened with artillery on the Vionville side. The 1st army therefore was ordered to engage the enemy in front, and at 1 o'clock opened a well sustained fire and very affective cannonade, which lasted till broad day light. The French replied with vigor. About 2:30 the infantry engaged the enemy, who were just then strongly reinforced, his line reaching from St. Marie Aix Chenes to Salines wood His position, naturally of great strength, had been so fortified by earthworks and ditches that it seemed almost impregnable. There was a brief delay before the assault in order to make sure that the enemy had stopped his retreat on the northern route. The combat which ensued was long and terrible. On the left the guards and Saxon troops fought at St. Marie, St. Pinotes and Ducourt. Meanwhile the other wing was engaged near St. Ail and Vionville, as far as the north side of the northern road from Metz to Verdun. The 8th and 9th corps participated in an action at Gravelotte and the contest spread from Vaux to the Moselle, where a brigade of the 31 and 10th with artillery engaged with the entire French army, MaMahon's corps and Gen. Failly's division excepted. After sundown the Prussians took the heights by storm, plunging back the French along their entire line to the shelter of Metz

Latest Items from various sources.

London, Aug. 30. A report from a Prussian source states that the Emperor Napoleon is shut up in Metz along with that portion of the army of Marshal Bazaine, which has unsuccessfully endeavored to break through the bessiging lines

The Prussians entered Vouziers on the heels of the retreating French.

King William's route to Paris is by the upper Marne and Meuse.

Special to New York *Tribune*:

Our correspondent telegraphs from Verdun Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock, that no news had been received there of a great battle which was reported to have been fought. There are many Prussians around Mouson, Dun and Stenay. Reports of cannon and musketry were heard on Sunday in that direction, and an engagement is believed to have taken place near Bazancy.

A correspondent of the *Tribune* writes from Mesieres, a town about 120 miles northeast from Paris then occupied by McMahon's army, under date of Sunday 28th. I left Rethel yesterday morning and was one day on the road. On my arrival here I found no troops except the garrison, but the Prince Imperial has arrived during the day with an escort of Cent Gardes.

The Emperor slept at Touteron night before last and started yesterday for Lesicheare, sending the Prince Imperial here at the same time. This morning the Prince and escort started at half past ten o'clock for Arrect. His destination I am privately told, is Sedan, thus proving the Prussians have not as reported, cut the railway between Mesieres and Sedan.

Great preparations are being made at Charleville near McMahon's position, for the accommodation of the wounded.

A despatch dated Brussels says McMahon is about to make a desperate effort to force his way from Sedan alongside Montmedy and Thionville railroad with the object of attacking from the North whatever Prussian forces may be gathered in the triangle formed by the fortresses of Metz, Verdun and Toul, regardless of their numbers. McMahon hopes to have co-operation at all of these places. The attempt is a bold and desperate one as there is no escape from destruction in case of defeat. It is believed that the Emperor and son will await the result of this movement at Sedan and be ready to cross at Boillon into Belgium in case of defeat.

Paris, Aug. 30. Measures have been taken to blow up the bridges and tear up the railways around Paris promptly on the approach of the enemy. It is understood that the Diplomatic Corps in case the city is besieged, will go to Tours, which, owing to their presence will be considered neutral, and respected as such by the belligerents.

The Corps Legislatif yesterday voted that the urgency of the situation demanded two important measures: First, the formation of a battalion from the National Gardes and the Gardes, and the firemen of each department, who shall be lightly equipped and especially designed to hang upon the march of the enemy, attacking him at every opportunity. The second was for the Government to take at prices agreed upon, all arms manufactured in France, either for the foreign or private parties, and now ready for use.

London, Aug. 30. An official despatch from Mundetsteim to-day, via., Berlin, says combined infantry and artillery brigades opened parallels yesterday within six or eight hundred paces of the fortress of Strasburg, without loss or opposition. Forty-two new guns were placed in position.

Special Notices.

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Married.

In Augusta, Aug. 27, by Rev. C. F. Penney, Alfred F. Giddings of China to Miss Ada Bartlett of Augusta.

In Augusta, Aug. 15, by Rev. M. Leffingwell, Judson Ames of New York to Miss Hillie C. Littlefield of Augusta.

In North Vassalboro', Aug. 21, Alonzo H. Hamlin to Miss Emma L. Priest.

In Palermo, Aug. 12, by John Greeley, Esq., Orchard C. Greeley, Esq., to Mrs. Eliza A Plummer of Freedom.

In Brunswick, Aug. 25, by Rev. Geo. C. Crawford, Burrage D. Bridgham of Whitneyville to Miss Ellen A. Crawford of Bath.

In St. Albans, July 9, by Rev. W. S. Sewall, Moody Bailey to Miss Sarah M. Nye; Aug. 20, George W. Patten to Miss Ellen H. Jewett.

In Waldoboro', Aug. 24, by Reuben Orff, Esq. Ellen G. Welt to Miss Eliza J. Feyler.

In Waterville, Aug. 21, Moses H. Gulliver to Miss Flora E. Wood of Winslow; Rev. John W Perry to Miss Alwilda R. Bates; Cyrus W. Shepherd to Miss Ella N. Bailey.

Died.

In Riverside, Vassalboro', Aug. 25, George Cox, Esq. formerly an active business man and influential citizen, engaged for many years in Vassalboro' in the manufacture of paper, aged 77 years.

In Hallowell, Aug. 28, Miss Lydia White, aged 79 years.

In Brunswick, Aug. 26, James Nelson, aged 82 yrs 11 mos.

In Dexter, Aug. 23, Ann S., wife of Wm. Appleyard.

In Fairfield, Aug. 17, Rufus D. Atwood, aged 51, Aug. 19, Joseph H. Canaan, aged 47; Aug 19, Silas Tozier, aged 73.

In North New Portland, Aug. 21, Meiwica P. wife of J. W. Norton, aged 39 years, 7 months.

In Abbot, Aug. 13, Mary, wife of J. Clark, formerly of Parkman, aged 25 years

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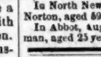

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Poetry.

THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM.

Southey's famous "Battle of Blenheim" has doubtless occurred to many readers within the past week, who will be glad to see it reprinted. The future Kaiser, however, will be slow to tell what the great war of 1870 was about, when he recalls the wasted country by the many thousand bodies that lay rotting in the sun after the great victory. The little Peterkin of that period will learn that it was because a Prussian King spoke disrespectfully to a French ambassador or something of that sort.

It was a summer evening—
Old Kasper's work was done,
And he before his cottage door
Was sitting in the sun
And by him sported on the green
His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother Peterkin
Roll something large and round,
Which he beside the rivulet
In playing there had found;
He came to ask what he had found
That was so large, and smooth, and round.

Old Kasper took it from the boy,
Who stood expectant by;
And then the old man shook his head,
And with a natural sigh—
"'Tis some poor fellow's skull," said he,
"Who fell in the great victory."

"I find them in the garden,
For there's many here about;
And often when I go to plough,
The ploughshare turns them out;
For many thousand men," said he,
"Were slain in the great victory."

"Now tell us what 'twas all about,"
Young Peterkin he cries;
And little Wilhelmine looks up
With wonder waiting eyes—
"Now tell us all about the war,
And what they killed each other for."

"It was the English," Kasper cried,
"Who put the French to rout;
But what they killed each other for,
I could not well make out;
But everybody said," quoth he,
"That 'twas a famous victory.

"My father lived at Blenheim then,
Yon little stream hard by;
They burned his dwelling to the ground,
And he was forced to fly;
So with his wife and child he fled,
Nor had he where to rest his head.

"With fire and sword the country round
Was wasted far and wide;
And many a child and mother there,
And new-born baby died;
But things like that, you know, must be
At every famous victory.

"They say it was a shocking sight
After the field was won—
For many thousand bodies here
Lay rotting in the sun;
But things like that, you know, must be
After a famous victory.

"Great praise the Duke of Marlboro' won,
And our good prince Eugene."
"Why, 'twas a very wicked thing!"
Said little Wilhelmine.
"Nay—nay—my little girl," quoth he,
"It was a famous victory.

"And everybody praised the Duke,
Who this great fight did win."
"But what good came of it at last?"
Quoth little Peterkin.
"Why, that I cannot tell," said he;
"But 'twas a famous victory."

Our Story-Teller.

LITTLE TROUT.

Trestwood-Darenth was not originally an imposing structure, and how or when it acquired the honor of a double name was never satisfactorily ascertained. The title, nevertheless, subsisted, and we did the family and descendants of the first proprietor, until nine generations of Blackacres, expending in succession the surplus of their improving means in enlarging the mansion, that building attained at last its present dimensions and somewhat composite appearance, bearing, as it does, the aspect of a pinched palace, to which have been successively added a poor-house, a riding-school, and a private lunatic asylum.

To give but a faint idea of the ins and outs, ups and downs, turns and bends, of this remarkable residence, would occupy a summer's day. If the inhabitants themselves were sometimes at fault in working their way from one end to the other, strangers had indeed to take heed to their steps. The general difficulties of the place were increased by the fact of no two apartments being precisely on the same level with each other, or with their relative approaches—a want of harmony that had occasioned more than one mishap through persons failing to remember that they had to ascend two steps into a bed room, or jump down twice that number to dinner.

Every prudent guest—and guests were numerous under the roof of the hospitable Blackacres—provided himself at once with a careful plan of the house, in which was marked off every snare and pitfall, with especial warnings against seductive entries, whic' promising boudoir or billiard-room, landed you in the butler's pantry, or even the coal-cellar.

With the external domain of Trestwood-Darenth we have little or nothing to do. The romance of our story—and a singular one it is—will be confined within the walls. It may, however, be incidentally mentioned that the estate included a finely wooded park, and more than one prosperous farm, whose extent and revenue were equal to those of many a property that exalts its owners to the rank of "country people."

Mr. and Mrs. Blackacre, four daughters, and three sons, a governess, and, upon an average, fourteen guests, formed the party that usually assembled at Trestwood-Darenth, and pretty well filled that commodious but intricate mansion. The master of the house strongly objected to sitting down less than twenty to dinner, and, as it frequently chanced that one or more of his children were absent, it was his wont to guard against any diminution of the favorite number, by keeping his visiting contingent well up to the mark.

Hence, it would occasionally come to pass that the last-named element overflowed, and, washing Charley Blackacre (the youngest) out of his accustomed chamber, compelled him to take refuge in a room on the ground-floor, opening, in fact, upon the hall, which, partaking of the mingled character of the house at large, was two-fifths library, one gun-room, one chamber, and the remainder what you please. The chamber portion consisted of a camp-bedstead and washing-stand, and, with these, Charley had passed many a contented night, often, inspired perhaps by the sporting implements around him, rising with the dawn, and bringing home with him a creelful of dancing, crimsoned-speckled trout for the matin meal.

It was more than suspected that another motive—nothing less than filial affection—incited Charley to these expeditions. He doted upon his father, firmly believing him to be the wisest sage, the truest patriot, the most sagacious statesman, the most brilliant wit, that ever preferred the privacy of domestic life to the honor and renown that must otherwise have been thrust upon him. It was a sweet, h nest faith, and a pleasing. Sad is it to dissent from anything that has a root so commendable. Truth, however, must be told, and the bare fact is, that, unless an addiction to jokes of the minuter kind be an evidence of superior mental endowment, good, kind Mr. Blackacre was not there, if indeed he was equal to, the ordinary run of men.

Charles never missed, nor failed to applaud, his father's jokes. He would as soon have omitted to greet his sovereign at the third encounter, because he had taken off his hat to him twice before. The new jests he hailed with bursts of glee, the old he relished with a calm enjoyment, as one might sip and toy with wine of an approved and mellow vintage. And it was for one of these latter, besides for trout, that Charley went a-fishing.

He knew that when Binns the butler ostentatiously placed those fish on the table, with a glance that sufficiently indicated whose skill had provided them, his father would infallibly remark:

"Ha, ma'amselle! more of your kinsmen?" and therewith select the most delicate for Mademoiselle Trautchen Preis, the little German governess.

(Linguists will forgive the explanation that "Trautchen," little trout, is a corruption of "Trudchen," short, with diminutive added, for Gertrude.)

"Ha, ha, ha! Good, sir, good!" shouted the faithful Charley, with the keen enjoyment of a sports man who has bagged his "stalk."

Little Trout was such a very minnow that she might have held the post of governess to Hop o' my Thumb. She had small set features, and a cloud of dusky hair, which it was her will to confine within a lurid crimson fillet, forming the frontier line between brow and hair, and imparting a Medea-like expression to the little pearl, sweet face below. In this fillet was supposed to reside the power she undoubtedly possessed of awe-striking her pupils with a single silent turn of the head. Before this movement, passion froze, contumacy ceased, argument became dumb. Mademoiselle was never known to color. When vexed, she bit her lip. When pleased, her blue eyes widened and brightened, as when one turns up a reading-lamp. When angry, her pale cheek and forehead grew white as alabaster, throwing out the crimson fillet in such relief, that it seemed as if all the angry blood in her veins had concentrated in that glowing circlet as in a citadel.

As for the look, heretofore described, the master of the house himself had been known to turn pale and shrink before it, the half born jest expiring on his tongue. Charley alone defied it, but he was a youth who knew not the sensation called fear, and hence perhaps it was that, on crowded occasions, he was, by general consent, voted into the occupation of the apartment already mentioned, which was, in a moderate, unobtrusive manner, to an ascertained degree, and without prejudice to the possibility of passing very comfortable nights there—haunted.

"Here's a pretty business!" said Mr. Blackacre, one morning, coming into his wife's dressing-room, with an open letter in his hand. "My aunt Macory will be here to day."

"To-day! No, dear, Saturday."

"'To-morrow, I take it, means 'to-day,'" replied her husband, with a dim consciousness that the retort might have taken rank as a joke, had Charley only been present to witness to its character. Unfortunately, he had gone away that morning on a visit.

"Aunt has had a kink-up with Lady Carruthers. Some bosh about cold slops," continued Mr. Blackacre, in that informal phraseology not uncommon, I have been told, in the privacy of conjural discourse. "That fine minx of hers—Meggs—Mogge—what's her name?—I take it, has been troublesome again. Always in hot water, and—"

"This is about *cold*!" put in his wife.

Mr. Blackacre frowned, and bit his lip. His wife had snipped off the innocent jest.

"There has been a jolly row," he resumed, gloomily, but controlling himself. "Miss Matilda Moggs cut, and controlling himself. "Miss Matilda Moggs complained that she got her tea too late, and cold. Aunt remonstrated with housekeeper Housekeeper flared up, and set fire to her mistress. General action. Mrs. Macrory withdrew from the field, carrying off her wounded (Moggs), and will be here in the course of the day. Now, where can you put her?"

Mrs. Blackacre pondered. Mrs. Macrory was particular. So was her maid.

"There is literally nothing but the hall room."

"As well offer her the ball-room!" chuckled her husband.

"Even Charley's room is occupied. Somebody must change into the hall room," said the lady, decidedly.

"Whoever you select for that transformation, my dear," remarked her spouse, "don't let it be my little Popsey." In which appeal he referred to his youngest daughter, whose name (as will have been easily comprehended) was Araminta.

At this moment entered a stream of young ladies, three—and the governess.

"A volunteer for the Chamber Perilous!" shouted Mr. Blackacre, waving his aunt's letter like a standard. "Hurrah! Don't all speak at once!"

They didn't. On the contrary, there ensued a depressing silence of some seconds, after which, one voice, very sweet and decided, remarked quietly:

"I will sleep there."

"You will do no such thing, ma'amselle," replied the master of the house. "It would be an indelible stain on the courage of my race, were we to be indebted to a young and tender stranger——"

"I am not tender, sir," said little Trout.

"—For a service not one of ourselves had the courage to perform," continued Mr. Blackacre. "Connie, my brave child, you shall sleep below."

Miss Constance responded with a burst of tears.

"I prohibit *that*," said Little Trout.

"You pro——I beg your pardon, ma'am," said Mr. Blackacre, somewhat loftily.

Mademoiselle Trautchen slowly turned, and looked at him. The blood-red fillet seemed to catch and imprison his eye. Mr. Blackacre winked, blinked, fidgeted, finally muttered, in a confused manner, that if his wife consented to the—saw—no—that sort of thing—he—that is she—in short, mademoiselle would do as she pleased. Upon this, Little Trout slightly smiled.

Mrs. Blackacre was too happy to avail herself of the voluntary proposal, and lost no time in giving orders that the apartment should be made as comfortable as its composite character permitted. This done, the council broke up, and went to breakfast.

The day passed as merrily as usual. Mrs. Macory, with plumes yet ruffled, arrived in due course, was installed in mademoiselle's pleasant chamber, condoled with, and given tea. As dusk approached, those who were in the secret of the change of rooms fancied that Little Trout's inscrutable face for once exhibited a shade of uneasiness It was probably nothing more than the graven suggestion of their own repugnance to the task *she* had undertaken. In *her* there was really no symptom of vacillation; and, when the hour of retiring arrived, you might have supposed Little Trout was about to accompany a party of friends to some agreeable entertainment, got up for their amusement.

A few friends did accompany her as far as the door. There, for the present, intercourse ceased. Abrupt, yet cordial, leaves were taken, and the escort, separating, retired to their cheerful rooms above.

Little Trout sent a careless but not incurious glance round the apartment. It exhibited a perfect museum of guns, foils, fishing-tackle, hunting and other whips, bows, bolts cross and long, cloaks, gloves, hats, and a multitude of those familiar but indescribable articles known as odds and ends.

Twenty ghosts might with ease have lain concealed in such a room, and, search being out of the question, the dark panelling and other gloomy objects utterly devouring the light of her chamber lamp, Little Trout simply looked to the fastening of her door and windows, undressed, and went to bed. There she lay for some time, listening to and speculating dreamily upon those singular creaks, cracks, groans, squeaks, and rumbles, by which most venerable mansions inform the silent night that their constitutions are beginning to feel the touch of time. The disturbance was presently increased by the circumstance of a rat, that appeared to be held in great esteem, giving a party, which, after much conviviality, ended in a general fight Hence it was past two before Little Trout's blue eyes consented to slumber.

A cry! a shot!—*two* shots, in angry succession! Trestwood-Darenth leaped to its feet; Doors banged. Half-dressed people peeped over the banisters, and coughed in the sulphurous haze, as the smoke still went curling up Little Trout, in her gray dressing-gown, looking white as winter, but otherwise unappalled, stood in front of her chamber-door, a pace or two within the hall, grasping, in her still extended hand, a discharged pistol. The shutters and sash of one of the hall windows was open, admitting the moonlight. Some of the furniture was in confusion, and on the marble floor were drops and patches of blood, clearly showing that the intruders had not escaped scot-free.

Mademoiselle's story was soon told. She had been aroused by a low grating sound at the window of her room. It had a purpose and persistence about it, easily distinguished from the wainscot noises to which she had been listening before, and when it suddenly ceased, to be renewed, the next minute, at a more distant window, Little Trout at once concluded that the proper time had arrived for interference.

It was not, however her intention to disturb the household. Any indication of watchfulness within would suffice to hinder the attempt. She therefore took a pistol from the wall, charged it hastily from the materials on the table, and opening her door softly, crept into the hall She was too late. A tall man, with woolen socks drawn over his boots, and a dark lantern in his hand, was crossing the hall towards the butler's pantry and plate closet. A second man, a thick-set, powerful fellow, had just leaped upon the floor, and catching sight of Trautchen, muttered a low execration, and made towards her, his comrade turning at the same moment.

As the first man raised his arm, as if to grasp her, Trautchen touched the trigger. There was a guttural cry—a hurtling rush She knew no more.

Blood marks near the window, upon the very sill, seemed to indicate that the ruffians, wounded and unwounded, had escaped by the way they came, while the trampling of different-sized feet on the soft mould led the searchers to conclude that the band repulsed by Little Trout consisted of at least three.

Great were the congratulations, manifold the compliments, lavished on the little lady Mr. Blackacre was profuse in commendation of the defender of his plate subboard, and old General Dacre, a guest in the house, vowed he would present a beautiful case of pistols to the hand that knew so well how to use them. Mrs. Blackacre insisted that a bed should be prepared for mademoiselle in her own dressing-room, there being, of course, every likelihood of a renewal of the attempt before morning. But this proposal mademoiselle negatived with her crimson fillet, and was allowed to re-occupy her chamber, escorted to the threshold by a company as numerous as, though less elaborately attired than, before.

This incident, it may be supposed, created no small excitement, the attempt to rob a house like Trestwood-Darenth, crowded, as it was generally known to be, with guests and servants, appearing audacious in the extreme No clue, however, was obtained that might lead to the apprehension of the gang, and things resolved their usual course, unless we may except the circumstance that Little Trout, who had hitherto been rather respected than loved by the master and mistress, seemed to have taken a sudden leap into the affections of both. There followed a corresponding mollification in the tone and bearing of that independent young lady herself—a change all the more engaging, since you might as well have expected the Duke of Wellington to descend from his bronze Copenhagen to do homage to a passing beadle, as Mademoiselle Pfalz to court the good graces of any living thing.

"Who practices the accordeon—sweetly, I must own, at two in the morning?" inquired General Dacre one day, at breakfast.

"Ay—who is it?" said a chorus of voices.

Mrs. Blackacre had a confused recollection of a sweet melancholy peal of music mingling with her dreams, but could form no idea whence it came, no one then in the house having, so far as she was aware, any skill in the instrument named. It remained a mystery.

Another day or two elapsed, and the house had become so singularly bare of guests that poor Mr. Blackacre had to sit down to dinner with a depressing little party of sixteen, when rumors, originating none knew exactly where, began to circulate in reference to unaccountable doings in and about the house. That active individual, who divides with the cat the reproach of all the mischief of a household—Mr. Nobody—was engaged in the most extraordinary gambols. Not only was he heard disporting himself in the dead of night, but lamps were used, candles burned, provisions stolen, books and even clothes borrowed by this cool marauder Cook, housekeeper, and butler were at their wits end with terror and perplexity; and these had reached their climax, when one morning, after a night's vigil within the walls the gamekeeper requested an audience of his master, and declared his conviction that some person not belonging to the family or its guests—most probably one of the burglars' gang, whose retreat had been cut off—was actually secreted within the mansion!

Tom Ringwood's reason for arriving at this alarming conviction were never precisely known. They, at all events satisfied his master, who, with much discretion, concealing the fact from all except his wife and eldest son, took measures with a view to the surprise and detention of the intruder.

It was arranged that on the following day, two policemen, properly disguised, should be introduced into the house, and accompanied by a house architect, make such an exhaustive scrutiny of its labrynthine recesses as should satisfy them that the visitor, by whatever means he obtained access, had no habitual hiding place within the walls, at all events, without the connivance of one or the other of the inhabitants.

The investigation, though laborious, produced no fruit beyond a vast amount of dust, and the rout and dissolution of a republic of spiders, which had flourished in peace and prosperity for at least a century Soundings of panels, and measuring of walls and floors, revealed nothing more than extreme stability, and an aversion almost monomtal, to level and uniformity. So convinced were those experienced officers that nothing had escaped their search that they could not forbear congratulating Mr. Blackacre on his prompt adoption of the only effectual course; and so, handing over the mansion to renewed tranquility, took their leave.

On the next morning, Mr. Binns, the butler, presented himself, with pale and anxious face, and reported that one of the vacant rooms—Mr. Charles's—had actually been "slep' in." Nor was this all. The daring occupant had absolutely turned out Mr. Charles's marl'obs on the floor, and, selecting a full shooting suit and a pair of dress boots, had left in their place his own dirty leather-laced highlows, a pair of rough overalls, and a greasy hat.

All idea of keeping the idea vanishep with this new discovery. In justice to his guests, Mr. Blackacre was constrained to announce, at the breakfast-table, that his castle was no longer his own, and that, until this most incomprehensible annoyance had been fairly got rid of, he could not ensure his—at any other time most welcome—visitors from the possibility of disturbance.

The hint was taken, and in a few hours the party at Treswood-Darenth was with the exception of one or two gentlemen who begged to remain and be made of use reduced to the family themselves

Poor Mr. Blackacre was much cast down at this compulsory dismissal of guests. Nothing in his cheerful, easy, genial life had ever annoyed him so much. He sat in his wife's boudoir, with his head in his hand, as if incapable of taking any decided step to shake off the incubus that oppressed him.

He had not been in his usual spirits for some days even before the occurrences narrated. He always missed his favorite son; and Charles, who was rarely absent many days, had been compelled to prolong his visit in the North, in order to be present at the marriage of a near connection. He wrote, however, frequently, condoling with his father as to the strange disturbances, suggesting modes of inqury, &c. When informed of the foray upon his own chamber, he wrote reassuringly, seeming rather tickled with the cool audacity of the perpetrator, but addiug that would instantly return, to aid in unearthing the fox, unless Mademoiselle Trautchen, whose fame in arms had reached the North, should forestal him.

The latter passage being quoted to mademoiselle that warrior-maid smiled in a superior manner, and declared her intention of taking up her permanent night-quarters in the Chamber Perilous, as holding out the chance of another encounter with the marauder, who, ma'amselle flattered herself, had already had reason to respect her arm. Such influences had the little lady, by dint of her combined pluck and sweetness, gained by this time over the heads of the family, that neither of them thought of opposing her intention.

"Time was," observed Mr. Blackacre to his wife, when they were alone, "when I did not half like that little governess of yours. Of late, it really seems as if one could not get on without her. So gentle so self-denying, so considerate. What a creature it is! Talk of Joans of Arc! Bosh! Tell me of Maids of Saragossa! Bah!!"

"Her touch on the piano—" began his wife.

"Her touch on the trigger," chuckled Mr. Blackacre. And he sighed, for his wife did not laugh, and he missed the cheery rejoinder:

"Ha, ha, ha! Good, sir—*good!*"

"I don't know how it is, my dear," resumed the poor gentleman. "Perhaps it's the worry of this thing; but I fear I am growing dull and slow. My memory—wit, if you like it—somewhat fails me. I find myself less happy in retort than formerly. The table does not roar when I have every right to expect it. Perhaps, when Charley returns, I shall pluck up again. His wit seems the touchstone, as it were, of mine"

"I think my love, there is *one* who fully appreciates everything you say—ma'amselle. She rarely laughs; but I have often noticed her eyes twinkle and her lip curl at any clever remark of yours, just like dear Charlie's," said Mrs Blackacre

"No; but have you?" cried her husband, brightening visibly. "She's a nice, good girl, as she is brave, and as clever as she is good. And I—I wish—well, no matter."

"What do you wish, my dear?"

Her husband looked at her, but did not reply.

Mrs Blackacre smiled mysteriously.

"Shall I tell you a little secret, Henry?—Do you know that I think—I rather *think*—now don't be vexed, my love,—we can't help these things—that there has been, there was, in s ort, there is, a little predilection, in a quarter that shall be nameless, in favor of a party I will not mention.

"I have not the slightest doubt of such a phenomenon existing, my dear," said Mr. Blackacre, laughing. "But where?"

"Frankly, then—Charley, and—and ma'amselle."

"Ma'ams—"

"I am certain our boy loves her," continued his wife, hastily, "but he is so fond of you, dear, and has such a dread of your disappr—"

"Not another word, my love," said Mr. Blackacre, kissing her. "Let Charlie come home. We will see."

Mademoiselle Trauchen was sitting in the school room alone If she were engaged in correcting the exercise of her youngest pupil, it was a curious process enough, for the slate was covered with large "Charleys," and little else A soft tread startled her from her reverie; a soft matronly arm encircled her neck; and a voice, soft as either, whispered these two words:

"My daughter!"

Trautchen was weeping in her friend's arms.

There was an alarm-cry that evening. Where was Little Trout? Dinner, tea, the evening passed, without her. All her walking attire—hat, boots, parasol—the very crimson Fillet, that so rarely left her brow—were found in her apartment. No trace of herself was to be discovered in the house, and no one had seen her without. A terrible surmise was started. Was it impossible that the brave but unfortunate young lady had encountered the concealed burglar, who had overpowered, perhaps murdered her, and dragged the body to his lurking-place?

The search, this time, was joined in with almost frantic zeal by every member of the household. Not a cranny was left unvisited. All, however, was in vain. No clue was to be obtained to the enigma; and, most wearied with their exertions, and a prey to the appalling apprehensions, Mr. and Mrs. Blackacre at length dismissed every one, and sat down to rest and consult, in an apartment rarely visited on the upper floor

"I shall turn over the place to Hatsey Young, the under-keeper," said Mr. Blackacre; "he's a sharp, bold fellow, and, in my opinion, worth twenty of your trained police. If anybody *can* rout out this mystery without pulling down the very house, he's the man."

"He's sharp and bold enough," observed his wife, "but as to his honesty—?"

"Set a thief to catch a thief!" quoted Mr. Blackacre, with a mournful chuckle.

"*Ha, ha, ha! Good, sir, goo—*" shouted a strange, muffled voice, that seemed at once near and distant, and broke off with a gurgle, as if the speaker's mouth had been stopped by a hand.

Mr. Blackacre bounded from his chair, and again fell back into it. Well he might; for, high up in the wall, a panel, brickwork and all, swung outward without the slightest noise, and revealed a recess apparently of some size, and to which light seemed to be conveyed from the roof. A small flight of velvet-covered steps was let down in the same soundless manner, and by these descended Charley Blackacre, conducting, clad in a bridal dress and wreath, Little Trout?

"My wife, sir," said Charles, with a favorite's confident air, but not without feeling; "I am a bad undutiful fellow, and have not a word to say for myself." I have been married three months, my dearest father, and never had the courage to risk the affection I value as much as my life, by confessing an act you might not approve, until my darling herself had won her way into your heart. *That* we feared, might be a process too long for patience, so we plotted a little alarm, though not by any means to the extent that happened.

"In my pretended forcible entrance—in which I was abetted by Hatsey Young—I cut my hand so severely that my wife, after repulsing us in the gallant manner we had pre-arranged, implored me to remain, and dissolve the whole ally. I could not make up my mind to that, so adopted a middle course, and concealed myself in the house under my wife's protection, until my hurt was cured, and our great end obtained. How I discovered that hiding-place I will explain at great leisure. How often I have been nearly detected, how very short of provision my wife kept me, how she cut off my cigars without mercy, and how she herself all but compromised the whole thing by insisting upon trying her accordeon at two in the morning—also, how I managed my correspondence from cousin William's—these also you shall learn at your pleasure. Forgive us both, my dear father and mother—fools as we have been to mistrust you—and take this new child to your kind hearts."

"I—I cannot oppose your 'mother's wishes, sir," said Mr. Blackacre, trying with all his might to look like a rock, that, after much softening, had exhibited a minute fissure. "My dear, you will speak."

"*My* feelings must ever give way to *yours*, Henry," said Mrs. Blackacre, burning to embrace them both "Since you command—"

But the stiffness was so transparent that not one of the party could longer preserve their gravity. There was a roar!

"Well, my dear," said the stern father-in-law, wiping the tears of laughter from his eyes, "you are the first woman I have met with, who kept her husband in the cupboard among the spoons! Perhaps you thought it was but adding one to the number!"

"Ha, ha, ha!" reared Charley, looking round exultingly. "Good, sir, *good!*"

Hold the Rein.

We have plenty of Little Men and Little Women in America, but no Boys and Girls. Family government should be an enlightened and conscientious government, and we have made it a mob; we are so fond of our children that we mostly let them have their own way in diet, and diversions and dress; in the disposition of their time; in their demeanor toward their elders and superiors; in their morals, and in their manners, which are only morals in action; until the whole land swarms with an insolent, teasing, worrying, tormenting progeny, to the increase of old bachelors and the distress of adult everybody. The weakness which engenders this indulgence does not deserve to be called Love. It is simply a weak and silly partiality for one's own, encouraged by indolence and confirmed by hurrying pursuits outside of home. The impulsive would find a remedy for this in flogging; but generally there is a better and a wiser way.

The Battle of Gravelotte.

The following detailed account of the great battle of Gravelotte on Tuesday Aug. 18th, is furnished by the special correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, who witnessed the battle at headquarters, and stood by the side of King William and his prime Minister, Bismarck.

THE WOUNDED AT PONT-A-MOUSSON.

The first realization we had at Pont-a-Mousson—where I found myself on the 17th—of the extent to which fighting had been going on at the front, on Sunday and Tuesday, was from the coming in of wounded men. At first it was surmised that these had been wounded in skirmishes. But on the 16th, late in the evening, there were signs that the work was becoming warm On that evening soldiers with ghastly wounds walked about the market-place in Pont-a-Mousson, surrounded by eager groups of their newly-arrived comrades, and told a story of disaster Poor fellows! It surely was disaster to them, borne away as they had been from the field without having heard of any result. I stood among these groups, and the narratives of the men all amounted to this: that they had been sent to confront a much larger force than their own, and that their division had been cut up. I was struck by the fact that, though there was some dissatisfaction suggested by their tone of voice, I heard no word uttered by narrators or listeners which accused any one. They dwelt rather on the fact that they had dealt a heavy blow, on the 14th, and that the Tenth Division, though it had as an available organization been demolished, had sold its life dearly.

On the 17th the wounded of the preceding day began to pour into Pont-a-Mousson. They were brought in in long, uncovered grain-carts, lying upon hay. From my window, which overlooked the main street and also commanded a view of the market-place, I counted more than ninety of these long carts, each holding on an average about ten men. It was strange to see them as they passed between files of French citizens unable to conceal their joy, on the one hand, and Prussian soldiers on the other. But now came the other side of the account. The streets began to swarm with other wagons and other wounded, wearers of red trowsers Now and then came a batch of unwounded prisoners. At length there arrived a carriage with a French general. It was followed by a vast crowd of French, and for a little time it seemed as if there might be a collision between the inhabitants and Prussians, so earnest were the demonstrations of the populace. But it was now at least evident that the struggle was very serious at the front. At midnight of the 17th, or a little after, all the trumpets for miles around began to sound. This was the first time we had been startled by such wild music. Trumpet answered to trumpet through all the bivouacs around the little city.

MARCHING TO THE FRONT.

The troops had been passing through almost continually for several days previously; but now the tramp through every street and by-way made between midnight and dawn a perpetual roar. Hastily dressing, I ran out into the darkness, and managed to get a seat on a wagon that was going in the direction of the front, now understood to be a mile or two beyond the village of Gorze, some twelve miles from Pont-a-Mousson. On our way we met a considerable batch of French prisoners, who were looked upon with considerable curiosity by the continuous line of German soldiers with whom we advanced, but only one or two offensive cries towards the prisoners were heard. The way was so blocked with wagons that I finally concluded I could better do the six or seven miles remaining on foot. So I got out of my wagon and began to walk and run swiftly ahead. At Mouvient on the Moselle, about half way to Metz, I found vast bodies of cavalry—Cuirassiers and Hussars—crossing the river by a pontoon bridge, and hurrying at the top of their speed toward Gorze. Quickening my own steps, I first heard the thunder of the cannonade, seemingly coming from the heart of a range of hills on the right. Passing through the village and ascending the high plain beyond, I found myself suddenly in a battle-field, strewn thickly, as far as my eye could reach, with dead bodies. In one or two parts of the field companies were still burying the dead, chiefly the Prussians. The French, being necessarily buried last, were still lying in vast numbers on the ground. A few of those that I saw were not yet dead

As I hurried on, a splendid regiment of cavalry came up from behind me, and when they reach d the brow of the hill they all broke out in a wild hurrah and dashed forward. A few more steps and I gained the summit, and saw the scene which had evoked their cry, and seemed to thrill even their horses.

THE BATTLE-FIELD.

It would be difficult to imagine a grander battle-field. From the hill to which I had been directed by good authority to come, the entire sweep of the Prussian and French centers could be seen, and a considerable part of their wings. The spot where I stood was fearful. It was amid ghastly corpses, and the air was burdened with the stench of dead horses, of which there were great numbers. I was standing on the battle field of the 16th—the Prussian side thereof. On the left stretched like a silver thread the road to Verdun—to Paris, also—for the possession of which this series of battles had begun It was between the lines of poplars which stood against the horizon on my left; and on, as far as the eye could reach, toward Metz, with military regularity, strung on this road like beads, were the pretty villages, each with its church tower, all of which are really only a hundred yards apart, although they have separate names—Mars-La-Tour, Flavigny, a little south of the road, Vionville, Rezonville, and Gravelotte, which is divided into Great and Little Gravelotte. On my right were the thickly-wooded hills behind which lies the most important village of the neighborhood, which I had just left—Gorze. So environed was the foreground of the battle, which should, one would say, be called the Battle of Gravelotte, for it was mainly over and around that devoted little town that it raged. The area I have indicated is perhaps four miles square.

SPECTATORS OF THE BATTLE.

I arrived just as the battle waxed warm. It was about noon of the 18th. The headquarters of the King of Prussia were then at the spot which I have described. The great representative men of Prussia, soldiers and statesmen, were standing on the ground watching the conflict just begun. Among them I recognized the King, Bismarck, Gen. Von Moltke, Prince Frederick Charles, Prince Carl, Prince Albert, and Adjutant Kranski. Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan of the United States army was also present. At the moment the French were making a most desperate effort to hold on to the last bit of the Verdun road—that between Rezonville and Gravelotte, or that part of Gravelotte which in some maps is called St. Marcel. The struggle was desperate and unavailing, for every man in the French army had two to cope with, and their line was already beginning to waver. Soon it was plain that this wing, the French right, was withdrawing to a new position. This was swiftly taken up under cover of a continuous fire of their artillery from the heights beyond the village. The movement was made in good order, and the position, which was reached at one o'clock and thirty minutes, would, I believe have been pronounced impregnable by nine out of ten military men. When once this movement had been effected, the French retreating from the pressure of the Prussian artillery fire, and the Prussians as rapidly advancing, the battle-field was no longer about Rezonville, but had been transferred and pushed forward to Gravelotte, the junction of the two branching roads to Verdun. The fields in front of that village were completely covered by the Prussian reserves, and interminable lines of soldiers were steadily marching onward, disappearing into the village, and emerging on the other side of it with flaming volleys.

THIS SECOND BATTLE-FIELD

was less extensive than the first, and brought the opposing forces into fearfully close quarters. The peculiarity of it is that it consists of two hights, intersected by a deep ravine This wooly ravine is over 100 feet deep, and at the top some 800 yards wide. The side of the chasm next to Gravelotte, where the Prussians stood, is much lower than the other side, which gradually ascends to a great height. From their commanding eminence the French held their enemies fairly beneath them, and poured upon them scorching fire. The French guns were in position far up by the Metz road, hidden and covered among the trees. There was not an instant cessation of roar. Easily distinguishable amid all was the curious grunting roll of the *Mitrailleuse*. The Prussian artillery was posted to the north and south of the village, the guns on the latter side being necessarily raised for an awkward half vertical fire.

THE CARNAGE

The French stood their ground and died—the Prussians stood their ground and die!—both by hundreds, I had almost said thousands. This, for an hour or two that seemed almost ages, so constant was the slaughter. The hill where I stood commanded chiefly the conflict behind the village and to the south of it.

The Prussian reenforcements, coming up on their right, filed out of the Bois des Ogeons; and it was at that point as they marched on to the field that one could perhaps get the best idea of the magnitude of this invading army now in the heart of France. There was no break whatever for four hours in the march of men out of that wood. It seemed almost as if all the killed and wounded revived and came back and marched forth again. Birnam Wood advancing to Dunsinane Hill was not a more ominous sight to Macbeth, than these men of Gen. Goeben's army to Bazaine, shielded as they were by the woods till they were within range and reach of their enemies' guns. So the French must have felt; for, between 4 and 5 o'clock, they concentrated upon that spot their heaviest fire, massing all available guns, and shelling the woods unremittingly. Their fire reached the Prussians lines and tore through them; and though the men were steady, it was a test to which no General cares to surject his troops long. They presently swerved a little from that line of advance, and there was no longer a continuous column of infantry pouring out of those woods.

THE PRUSSIANS RECEIVE A CHECK.

The attack of the Prussians in the center was clearly checked. About 5 o'clock, however, a brigade of fresh infantry was again formed in the wood and emerged from its cover. Once out from under the trees, they advanced at double-quick. I watched their movement. The French guns had not lost the range of the wood, nor of the ground in front. Seen at a distance, through a powerful glass, the brigade was a huge serpent bending with the undulation of the field. But it left a dark track behind it, and the glass resolved the dark track into falling and dying and dead men. As the horrid significance of that path, so traced, came upon me, I gazed on more intently. Many of those who had fallen leaped up again, and ran forward a little way, striving still to go on with their comrades Of those who went backward instead of forward there were few, though many fell as they painfully endeavored to follow the advance.

I do not know whether, after the vain effort of that brigade, another movement was attempted from within the wood. But half an hour afterward great numbers of troops began to march over the hill where I was standing, and moved forward toward the field where so hard a struggle had been so long protracted. These also were, I think, a portion of Gen. Goeben's troops, who had been directed upon a less dangerous route.

TIMELY ARRIVAL OF STEINMETZ.

The battle from this point on the Prussian left, became so fierce that it was soon lost to us, or nearly lost, by reason of the smoke. Now and then the thick cloud would open a little and drift away on the wind, and then we could see the French sorely tried. To get a better view of this part of the field, I went forward about half a mile, and from this new standpoint, found myself not far from Malmaison. The French line on the hills was still unbroken, and to all appearances they were having the best of the battle. But this appearance was due, perhaps, to the fact that the French were more clearly visible in their broad light, and fighting with such singular obstinacy. They plainly silenced a Prussian battery now and then. But the Prussian line also was strengthened by degrees on this northern point. Infantry and artillery were brought up, and from far in the rear, away seemingly in the direction of Vernville, shot and shell began reaching the French ranks. These were the men and these were the guns of Steinmetz; who there and then effected his junction with the army of Prince Frederick Charles, and completed the investment Metz to the north-west.

With re-enforcements for the Prussians thus continually arriving on both sides of the field, the battle grew more and more obstinate. There could be no doubt that the French well understood the meaning of the new movements of the Prussians, and of the gradual developement of their line to the north.

THE FRENCH OUTFLANKED.

Steinmetz was able to extend his line gradually further and further until the French were outflanked and began to be threatened, as it appeared, with an attack on the rear of their extreme right wing. So long as the smoke from the Prussian guns hovered only over their front, the French clung to their position. The distance from headquarters to where the Prussian flank attack stretched forward was great, and, to add to the difficulty of clearly seeing the battle the darkness was coming on I know not how long the French held out, nor at what precise moment the Prussian onset became irresistible. What I saw was this: The puffs of smoke from the French guns mingled with the flashes, brightening as the darkness increased, receded gradually. The pillars of cloud and flame from the north as gradually and steadily approached. With that advance the French fire every moment grew more slack. It was not far from nine o'clock when the ground was yielded finally on the north, and the last shots fired on that terrible evening were heard in that direction.

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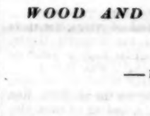

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